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Queen opens festival of children's theatre

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday inaugurated the second festival of the Jordanian children's theatre. The event is organised by the Ministry of Culture in cooperation with the Jordanian Artist Association on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

Libya said to agree to U.S. and British Lockerbie judges

TUNIS (R) — The Libyan government agreed to an American or British judge presiding over the trial of two suspects in the 1988 Lockerbie airliner bombing, a European mediator said on Saturday. But it insists the trial be held in a neutral country such as Malta, John Buontempo, a former Maltese ambassador, said in a statement to Reuters. Mr. Buontempo said the Libyan government approved his plan during meetings in Tripoli this week with Foreign Minister Omar Al Montasser and Abdel Al Obeidi, its ambassador to Tunisia. "I met Al Obeidi who was talking on behalf of his government and he agreed with my original suggestion... that the two suspects' trial will be held in a neutral country possibly in Malta, and presided by a British or an American judge," he said.

Tourabi mediates in Afghan crisis

KABUL (AFP) — Sudan's Islamic movement leader, Hassan Al Tourabi, who is on a peace mission to Kabul, had talks Saturday with Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, the Sudanese ambassador said. Ambassador Muhammad Ibrahim Sulaiman declined to give details of the talks and said it was premature to issue a statement before Dr. Tourabi completed his schedule of negotiations. Dr. Tourabi, who met Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyiar and two faction leaders Friday, has still to meet former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud. Regarding Friday's talks with Mr. Hekmatyiar, Shiite faction leader Abdul Ali Mazari and Pushtun faction leader Rasool Sayyaf, the Sudanese ambassador said "discussions were held behind closed doors."

Rabbani pledges to cooperate with Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani has pledged to remove all threats to Egypt's security from Afghan territory, where hundreds of Egyptian militants are based, the official news agency MENA reported here Saturday. A statement issued at the end of Mr. Rabbani's visit to Egypt, which began Monday, said the Afghan president "condemned terrorism in all its forms, and stressed he would not allow Afghan territory to be used to undermine Egypt's security and stability." Discussions between Mr. Rabbani and his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak focused on the problem of so-called "Afghan veterans" — militants who went to fight Soviet troops in Afghanistan in the 1980s, and whom Cairo accuses of planning and financing "terrorist" operations against the Egyptian authorities.

U.N. releases 9 Somali detainees

MOGADISHU (R) — The United Nations released nine Somali prisoners Saturday following a Security Council resolution which lifted an arrest order against warlord Mohamed Farah Aided. U.N. military spokesman Major David Stockwell said the nine had been detained on "suspicion of militia activity." The U.N. had wanted to put Gen. Aided on trial for a 1991 ambush in which militiamen killed 24 Pakistani peacekeepers. It called off the hunt after U.S. casualties in early October turned American public opinion against the mission.

Arafat says Israel is trying to delay pullout

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on Saturday accused Israel of obstructing the self-rule negotiations that should clear the way for an Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

The official Palestinian news agency Wafa said Mr. Arafat made the remark during a meeting earlier in the day with the Belgian's ambassador to Tunisia, Guido Courtois. Wafa said Mr. Arafat accused the Israeli government of trying to delay its troop withdrawal on Dec. 13, the date agreed on by the two sides in the peace deal they signed in Washington on Sept. 13.

The agency said Mr. Arafat also complained of violence by the Jewish settlers against the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

It did not give further details on Mr. Arafat's allegations or his talks with the Belgian envoy. Mr. Courtois could not be reached for comment.

On Friday, Arafat advisor Nabil Shaath said Israel and the PLO made a breakthrough in their secret withdrawal negotiations in Cairo and said Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin might sign a protocol on setting up a Palestinian self-rule authority on Dec. 12.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said implementation of limited Palestinian autonomy will begin on Dec. 13 as planned providing both sides "work as necessary" to ensure its success.

Speaking on Israeli Television, Mr. Peres said Friday progress was being made "constantly — slowly but surely," in negotiations between Israeli and PLO officials.

"The Palestinians still have to take some decisions, notably in the economic field, and some points need to be clarified, particularly the question of Jericho," Mr. Peres said. However, implementation of the Sept. 13 accord would "start on the date planned," he said.

The Israeli military withdrawal is to begin on Dec. 13 and be completed by April 13. Mr. Peres said the Palestinian police responsible for ensuring security in the Gaza Strip and Jericho could start work in one month's time.

The minister was speaking after a ceremony in Tel Aviv to mark the 16th anniversary of a visit to occupied Jerusalem by former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, assassinated in October 1981. Dr. Shaath said Thursday the Israeli-PLO autonomy talks would resume at a secret location in Cairo on Monday, and were expected to continue for four days.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said Saturday Israel is prepared to accept a 15,000-strong Palestinian police force to take the place of its troops in Gaza and Jericho.

Israeli officials have in the past divulged few details of negotiations over the PLO-led police force slated to take control of the Gaza Strip and Jericho under the Israeli-PLO accord.

Mr. Shahal said "it would not be a major problem" to agree to Palestinian requests that the force be allowed to use "certain vehicles" — apparently armoured personnel carriers — in addition to light arms and automatic weapons (See related story on page 10).

He said Jewish settlers, who are now routinely armed, would require a special permit to carry firearms under the

accord. Settlers bitterly oppose the pact, and have vowed resistance to Palestinian police in any form.

Mr. Shahal said in some cases Palestinian and Israeli police would be working together. He said to ease the transition Palestinian police would gradually enter the self-rule areas well before the April 13 deadline for the full troop withdrawal.

PLO sources said on Friday PLO Mr. Arafat has ordered 7,000 to 9,000 members of the Palestine Liberation Army based in Arab states to be ready to enter Gaza and Jericho as police as soon as Israeli troops start withdrawing on Dec. 13.

Enraged settlers, who have attacked Palestinians to avenge a spate of Arab killings of Jews since September, say the planned police force will further expose settlers to guerrilla acts.

Mr. Shahal said of the settlers: "They will be like any other Israeli citizen. They will need a permit to carry guns, and that will be under the control of the authorities."

Dr. Shaath said on Thursday settlers would have "absolutely no right" to carry weapons outside settlements.

Dr. Shaath said in principle the Palestinian police would have the same types of arms now used by Israeli police.

"They want to have some other vehicles which I would say is not a major problem, basically they will have light arms and automatic weapons," Palestinians have demanded the force have armoured cars, power boats and helicopters.

An internal Israeli army document has warned of the

(Continued on page 5)

Syria denies Quneitra border crossing open for Druze sheikhs

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria Saturday denied that the Quneitra border crossing on the Golan Heights, two-thirds occupied by Israel, had been open for three months on both sides of the disengagement line to Druze sheikhs.

"It's completely wrong and the crossing remaining difficult for everyone," Information Ministry official Ahmad Hariri told AFP, refuting an Israeli Television report this week.

"There's no discussion between the two countries on this matter. The Israelis still allow people to cross, but with difficulty," he said.

Israeli Television reported Tuesday that the crossing was open to the Druze clerics. The Syrian town of Quneitra lies in the part of the Golan Heights occupied by Israel.

It said dozens of Syrian Druze sheikhs had recently visited their families on the Golan and that in return an increasing number of Druze spiritual leaders living on the plateau were visiting Syria.

Israeli Television had described it as a goodwill gesture from both countries towards the Druze community, 15,000 Syrian members of whom live in the occupied Golan.

A sizeable Druze community also lives in Israel.

Syrian-Israeli talks which began in 1991 have been deadlocked over Syria's demand for a total Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and Israel's insistence that Syria must first pledge its commitment to full peace.

An Israeli newspaper said Friday that Israel was on the verge of announcing that it would concede sovereignty over the Golan Heights in exchange for formal ties with Syria.

Asked about the report, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said:

"We have different expectations, but it is still on the level

of expectations."

The Haaretz daily also said U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher would work on obtaining agreement for such a joint declaration during a planned visit to the Middle East in early December.

It added that once this breakthrough was made, Middle East talks were expected to resume in Washington in mid-January.

"I don't think we will know of any renewal until Secretary of State Warren Christopher comes in December," Mr. Peres said.

Some reports have indicated the administration of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin was hesitant about selling the public on yielding land on another Arab front so soon after agreeing to grant autonomy to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

There have also been reports of persisting secret contacts between Israel and Syria and attempts to arrange a summit between Mr. Rabin and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad.

Haaretz said Mr. Rabin asked Mr. Christopher to set up a channel for secret talks when the Israeli leader was in Washington last week, and that Mr. Christopher would raise the proposal while in the Middle East.

Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Friday he hopes Mr. Christopher will help bring about peace between Israel and Syria.

"I would like (Christopher) to help us make peace with the Syrians," Mr. Beilin told a news conference when asked what Mr. Christopher would be doing during his December visit. "The big question for me is whether the American administration is ready to be involved."

"We need American assistance with the Syrians," he said. "We need a third party, and I do not think that there is

another third party (that could help) with the Syrians other than the American administration."

Mr. Beilin said he thought the "explosive potential" of the Middle East is huge, noting that "if there is no peace, there is always war."

The Syrian press said Saturday that Syria was not willing to pursue the Middle East peace talks in Washington if Israel did not provide written guarantees on a total pullout from the occupied territories.

The official daily Tishrin said further negotiations "must be preceded by a clear and solemn Israeli commitment to abide by the principles and bases of peace."

It called for "the complete (Israeli) withdrawal from occupied Arab territories, since the pursuit of negotiations without a clear Israeli pledge will not yield any positive result."

Another official daily, Al Thawra, said Mr. Christopher would find "a more arrogant, more obstinate Israeli negotiator, less inclined than in the past to respond to calls for peace."

On Friday, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said he was optimistic the stalled peace talks between Israel and Syria would resume soon.

Mr. Musa also indirectly criticised a U.S. decision to supply Israel with advanced warplanes, saying it would hurt peace in the Middle East.

Quoted by newspapers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Mr. Musa was responding to reports of a new arms deal signed by Israel and the United States during a visit to Washington last week by Mr. Rabin.

"There is no deal. But any attempt to maintain Israel's military superiority and upset the balance in the region is not in the interest of peace," Mr. Musa said during a brief visit to Abu Dhabi late Friday.



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Hassan Saturday meet with Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Chomikov (second from left).

King receives Yeltsin message

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Saturday Vladimir Chomikov, Russia's first deputy prime minister, and received from him a message from Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

The envoy conveyed to the King the Russian leadership's

keenness on bolstering bilateral ties.

King Hussein voiced Jordan's interest in reaching a just and comprehensive settlement to the Middle East issue. King Hussein also expressed Jordan's keenness on bolstering Jordanian-Russian relations, noting that the

Kingdom was going ahead with the march to democracy and to set a good example for others who are yearning for freedom, democracy and respect of human rights.

Information Minister Ma'n Abu Nowar attended at the audience.

Keilani, Qasem named royal advisors

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Royal decree was issued Saturday appointing Mohammad Rasoul Al Keilani as advisor to His Majesty King Hussein effective Nov. 20 1993.

Mr. Keilani is a former head of the General Intelligence Department and a former member of the Upper House of Parliament.

Another royal decree issued Saturday announced the appointment of Marwan Al Qasem, former foreign minister and Upper House member, as political advisor to the King effective Nov. 20, 1993.

With the two appointments, King Hussein will have seven advisors; They are Yanal Hikmat, Khaled Karaki, Ali Ghandour, Izzeddin Al Khatib Al Tami-



Mohammad Rasoul Al Keilani



Marwan Al Qasem

mi for Islamic affairs and Abdullah Tougan (for scientific affairs).

The King last September, appointed Assem Ghoseh and Eid Al Fayez as advisors at

the Royal Court. A Royal Decree issued Saturday endorsed the appointment of Nayef Al Hadid as secretary-general of the Foreign Ministry.

PLO aide defends economic council

TUNIS (AFP) — A senior member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership Saturday ruled out changes to the Palestinian economic council set up to coordinate aid for the occupied territories, despite criticism its members were largely political appointees.

Ali Ishaq, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, said the 14-member Palestinian Economic Development and Reconstruction Council (PEDRA) set up by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on Nov. 4 had "enough economic competence to accomplish its mission fully."

Mr. Ishaq, who represents the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF), said there would be "no changes" to the body, and the PLO had not received any written resignations.

Several Palestinian experts have accused Mr. Arafat of preferring political supporters over economists to handle the management of international aid.

Samir Abdullah, an economic professor and negotiator at multilateral talks with Israel, said PEDRA "includes too few economic experts and too many politicians."

Meanwhile, the East Jerusalem-based Palestinian daily Al Quds reported that Yusef Al Sayegh, a PLO economist, resigned from the council last week in protest at what he called "the politicians' dominance."

U.N. team heads for Iraq's marshlands

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — U.N. experts headed on Saturday to Iraq's southern marshlands to probe allegations that Iraq used chemical gases in its drive to uproot Iran-backed Shi'ite dissidents, a U.N. source said.

"They departed early in the morning," the source, who declined to be named, told Reuters. He said the team of nine international experts would stay there "until they can be satisfied."

We will leave Baghdad at dawn and will not come back before having completed our investigations," the U.N. team's leader, Australian Roger Hill, said Friday on arrival. "We have an idea of the primary site we should go to, and we will go in the area around to take samples," he said without specifying the location.

The Iraqi press meanwhile slammed "the deceitful" campaign aimed at extending a U.N. embargo imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 by charging Baghdad with attacking the marshlands with banned chemical weapons.

Iraq has denied using chemical arms and accuses Iran of hatching a plot to discredit it. "Iran has spread these lies and U.N. has joined in this operation to shed doubt on Iraq's respect for its commitments" to abide by U.S. Security Council resolutions, said the daily Al Iraq, of the pro-government Kurdish party.

It said the campaign was synchronised with the review of the anti-Iraq embargo and had been stepped up ahead of the talks in New York between

Iraqi officials and the U.N. special commission on disarmament Iraq in line with Security Council resolutions following the Gulf war.

The Security Council extended the three-year-old sanctions against Iraq on Thursday saying that "necessary conditions" did not exist for modifying or lifting them.

Experts such as oil require compliance with weapons provisions while imports to Iraq require Baghdad to fulfil a host of other council demands.

Baghdad's newspapers lauded France's attitude which they described as "distinguished."

France signalled that once Iraq had complied with all the council's demands it destroy its weapons of mass destruction, it should be allowed to sell oil again.

An Iraqi team headed by General Amir Mohammad Rashid, director of Baghdad's Military-Industrial Authority, is holding talks in New York with U.N. officials to review progress on weapons destruction.

Another newspaper said the U.N. experts would be searching for "the mirage in desert sands."

"The sun of truth will shine... and veil the eyes of the ungodly people," the newspaper Al Qadisiyah said in a front-page editorial.

Mr. Hill's team arrived in Baghdad on Friday after completing the first stage of an investigation.

They first went to the Iranian side of the border to try to identify the location where Shi'ite refugees say the attack took place.

Military on alert around Aden

ADEN (AP) — The armed forces of the southern region of Yemen took up defensive positions in the hills surrounding this southern port city as tensions rose in the Red Sea country.

Military officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the troops were put on "maximum alert" and deployed in the hills as a precaution against any offensive by northern forces on the city that was the capital of South Yemen before the merger with North Yemen.

The government has ordered troops in northern and southern Yemen to return to their barracks, but only some units have obeyed the orders. The armies of North and South Yemen have not yet been integrated.

In Sanaa, the capital, U.S. Ambassador Arthur Hughes delivered to President Ali Abdullah Saleh a message of concern from Washington about the protracted political rift that now threatens the three-year-old union of North and South Yemen.

Diplomats said the message urged a dialogue to end the rift between Mr. Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beedh. It cautioned that any conflagration would adversely affect the course of unity and democracy that the country of 14 million took in May 1990.

Mr. Beedh had led his country of two million, and his Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), into union with the conservative North as his main ally the former Soviet Union was beginning to crumble.

But the union has been uneasy because of differences between Mr. Beedh and Mr. Saleh, the leader of the conservative North, over the pace of economic and social reforms, and over an unruly security system, at least 150 of Mr. Beedh's men have been killed and his own life threatened.

The situation became worse when the transitional stage of the merger ended in April with multi-party elections that made the northern fundamentalist-tri-tribalist Al Islah Party the second largest in the 301-seat parliament, relegating the Socialists to the third-largest group.

Since August, Mr. Beedh has preferred to boycott the capital Sanaa altogether and to remain exiled in Aden until his demands are met. International and Arab mediators, as well as Yemeni tribal chiefs and dignitaries have tried to reconcile the two leaders.

Among his complaints, Mr. Beedh was concerned about the failure in three years to integrate the armed forces of North and South. With the union, only two northern brigades were deployed in the south and one was deployed in the North as a token measure, till integration.

On Thursday, one of the two northern brigades in the South tried to set up a checkpoint blocking movement between southern provinces, and clashed with the civilian inhabitants. Five civilians were killed and two soldiers were injured (see page 2).

A few days earlier, the southern brigade in the north stopped six armoured vehicles, moving anti-tank rockets to their companions in the South.

In both instances, Defence Minister Hitham Qassem Taher rushed to the scene to contain the situation and order investigations.

Checkpoints by the northern and southern units of the armed forces had been springing up over recent weeks, apparently part of an effort to prevent movement of weapons.

The government has withdrawn the army brigade which was based in the south of the country after it attempted to move outside its authorised camp, a military officer said.

Human rights continue to be a concern despite self-rule deal

NEWS IN BRIEF

German replacements leave for Somalia

BONN (AFP) — The first batch of 196 German soldiers to replace members of the German contingent in Somalia left Germany on Friday evening, officials said. Some 1,700 Bundeswehr troops have been stationed at Belet Uen, some 300 kilometres northwest of Mogadishu, since August. The operation to replace the original contingent, which is providing logistical support to some 500 Italian soldiers in the area, is due to end on Dec. 19. It is the first time German troops have been deployed outside the 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) since the Bundeswehr was formed in 1953. Germany has already announced it is to scale the contingent down to 400 or 500 soldiers.

7 arrested in Faiyum

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian security forces have arrested seven suspected Islamic militants in Faiyum province southwest of here and seized a dozen petrol bombs from one of them, police said Friday. Mohammad Fathi Mahmoud, also known as Khaled, had hidden the petrol bombs in a canvas bag, police said, and a preliminary investigation revealed he was "about to commit terrorist acts." On Thursday police said they had dismantled a "terrorist" organisation which was trying to seize control of Cairo's working class neighbourhood of Imbaba. Extremists of the Al Gama Islamiya movement had turned Imbaba into a stronghold before a major police sweep in which hundreds of the group's members were arrested.

Iran cleric says U.S. ties 'deadly poison'

NICOSIA (AP) — A senior Iranian cleric Friday ruled out a resumption of relations with Washington, and said such a suggestion was like "a deadly poison" for the Islamic republic. Ayatollah Abdul Karim Musavi Ardebili spoke in a prayer sermon at Tehran University which was carried by the state-run radio and the Islamic Republic News Agency. "No one should talk or write about compromise and cooperation with the United States because this is like deadly poison," Ayatollah Ardebili told the worshippers. "I would go one step further and say that they should not even think about it." Ayatollah Ardebili, a member of Tehran's powerful Constitutional Committee, is a close aide to the nation's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Iran had expected the Clinton administration to seek improved relations in exchange for Tehran's help in the 1991 release of Western hostages held in Lebanon by pro-Iranian militants. But Washington kept Iran on top of the list of countries that sponsor "terrorism." The United States has been openly trying to block Tehran's efforts to improve relations with Europe. Ayatollah Ardebili said the United States was "the mother of all corruption" and responsible for most, but not all, of Iran's woes.

S. Arabia funds new Moroccan airport

RABAT (R) — Saudi Arabia has paid \$13 million to finance construction of a new airport in the desert town of Rachidia, 320 kilometres south-east of Rabat, the official news agency MAP said Friday. The airport, which opened to traffic on Thursday, was inaugurated by Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz and Morocco's Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed, elder son of King Hassan. It was a 3.2 kilometres runway capable of taking large civil aircraft, and was built by Moroccan construction companies in just under three months.

Russia to help investigate Iran crash

MOSCOW (R) — Russia has sent a team of experts to Tehran to help investigate the crash of a Russian-made cargo plane which hit a mountain in south-east Iran, ITAR-TASS news agency said Friday. All 17 people on the huge Antonov AN-124 were killed when it crashed on Monday on its way from Dnabai to Tashkent in the central Asian Republic of Uzbekistan. Ivan Mikhaylovskiy, head of Russia's air safety directorate, told TASS the plane belonged to the Moscow-based firm Magistralyev Liniy. Of the dead, 14 were Russians and three had yet to be identified.

Sadat's widow will reconcile with Arafat

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — After the former Egyptian leader, President Anwar Sadat was slain by Islamic fundamentalists 12 years ago, Yasser Arafat blessed the finger that pulled the trigger. But Friday, on the 17th anniversary of Sadat's peace mission to occupied Jerusalem, his widow Jehan Sadat said she would put aside animosity towards the Palestinian leader. "As soon as he started making peace I forgot all the things he said about my husband," she told Israel Television in an interview. "I am not for revenge, I am not looking back." "I am looking for... all of us to live in peace so what my husband did will never ever go in vain." Egyptian Ambassador Mohammad Bassymy lay a wreath Friday on the grave of the late Menahem Begin, the former Israeli prime minister and peacemaking partner to Mr. Sadat. The two leaders shared the Nobel Prize for Peace with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. "It was his idea, his mission," Mrs. Sadat said of her late husband's decision to go to Jerusalem. "He was very calm, very sure of himself, very happy that God gave him this opportunity."

Iran commander says ties with Syria strong

NICOSIA (R) — The commander of Iran's revolutionary Guards, Major-General Mohsen Rezaei, said on Friday on his return from Syria that relations between the two countries were "good and strong." Iran's IRNA agency said Gen. Rezaei held talks with President Hafez Al Assad, Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas and military chief Hekmat Shahabi during his visit to Damascus. Syria supported Iran during its 1980-88 war with Iraq and the two countries have strong political ties. Iran's deputy foreign minister, Hossein Sheikholeslam who attended the Assad meeting, had talks with Syrian leaders on Wednesday during which he praised attacks by Lebanese against Israeli positions in South Lebanon. Gen. Rezaei also met the leader of Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party, Walid Jumblatt, and the Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine General Command, Ahmad Jibril, IRNA said.

WASHINGTON (USIA) — In briefing decision-makers here this week, two leading human rights activists — one from Israel, the other from Gaza — brought different perspectives on how the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord has affected the human rights situation.

Avigdor Feldman and Raji Sourani agreed, however, on what lies ahead — they say it is going to be a very long and difficult process for both Israelis and Palestinians, in which human rights will continue to be a concern.

Mr. Feldman and Mr. Sourani — recipients of the 1991 Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award — were here to celebrate the award's tenth anniversary.

The award was established in honour of Robert Kennedy, attorney general under his brother, President John F. Kennedy. Robert Kennedy, a leading civil rights activist, was assassinated while running for the presidency in 1968.

While in Washington, Mr. Feldman and Mr. Sourani briefed members of a congressional human rights caucus, State Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs

Edward Djerejian, and the Washington chapter of Amnesty International.

Mr. Sourani, director of the Gaza Centre for Rights and Law, has handled thousands of cases related to Palestinian human rights, such as investigating prison conditions and working against deportations. Mr. Sourani has paid a price for his defence of human rights — he says he was restricted from leaving the occupied territories for 14 years and has been held in administrative detention, where he was subjected to beatings.

Mr. Feldman, the son of survivors of the Auschwitz concentration camp, is the founder and director of the Litigation Centre of the Association of Civil Rights in Israel, the country's main civil rights organisation. He is also a founding member of the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the occupied territories (B'Tselem). Mr. Feldman has defended the rights of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza in cases concerning deportation, property issues, taxation, and due process.

Mr. Feldman and Mr. Sourani offered different perspectives on whether the Israeli-PLO accord has had a positive

impact on the human rights situation in the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Sourani said one positive change has been in allowing demonstrations and the raising of the Palestinian flag. This development, he said, has led to fewer clashes with the Israeli military and "resulted in a reduction of injuries and killings." Nevertheless, he said, little else has changed for the better for the Palestinians since the signing of the accord Sept. 13.

"The Israeli occupation and all (its) policies are going just like usual," he said. "Military attacks, closures, searches in camps, restrictions on travel, electricity cut, nightly curfews, taxation and collecting — it is going on on a daily basis," Mr. Sourani said.

"Materially, (and) physically," he said, Palestinians "don't feel any sort of improvement" since the signing of the accord. If the situation does not improve, he said, many Palestinians who supported the accord will reconsider their position.

Mr. Feldman, on the other hand, stressed that the accord has created a sea change in attitude, if not in actual daily practice. "Maybe the daily life

has not changed, but certainly the overall context has changed dramatically" since the signing of the accord, he said.

Just three months ago it was illegal for Israelis to meet with any Palestinians representing the PLO, Mr. Feldman said. Now, the government has recognised the PLO, and, furthermore, the Israeli public has accepted this recognition, he said. "We are talking about change in all dimensions, in practice, in attitude, in psychological assumptions about the Palestinians."

"Human rights violations in daily life may not express a substantial change. Yet, we must take into consideration the fact that the long years of occupation have created a very complicated and sophisticated mechanism of occupation... and this cannot be changed in just one day," Mr. Feldman said.

Both men agreed, however, on the difficulties that lie ahead and the importance of continued human rights monitoring.

Mr. Sourani said making the accord work "will be very hard. It has incredible potential for complications." Improving the human rights

situation on the ground will depend both on Israeli intentions and on whether the Palestinians will develop democratic institutions once the accord is implemented, he said.

Dealing with the Palestinian authority on the question of human rights "will be difficult," Mr. Sourani remarked. He added, however, that Palestinian human rights activists "feel that its commitment, our mandate" to carry on with their cause, whether they deal with an Israeli or Palestinian authority. "We are stubborn enough, and we have the will to proceed with it," he stressed.

Mr. Sourani feels human rights organisations and activists can contribute to the peace process by monitoring human rights abuses and by helping to create a climate in which Palestinians "have no human rights grievances against Israel and Palestinians try to build a civil society, democratisation, and political rights."

For Mr. Sourani, this climate will only occur under an independent Palestinian state. "When we build a Palestinian state... we will then see a new Middle East," he said. Reviewing the challenges

ahead, Mr. Feldman said that "major issues were not solved and the occupation mechanism was not disintegrated" by the Israel-PLO accord. "The issue of settlements, Jerusalem, (and) self-determination are not dealt with — and these need very careful monitoring," he said.

Decades of occupation and an impoverished economy have created obstacles of creating a democratic civil society in the West Bank and Gaza, Mr. Feldman said. "I don't expect it to happen instantly," he remarked. He stressed, however, that a Palestinian "democratic entity could serve as an example to the whole Arab World."

Mr. Feldman says that once the accord is implemented "the life of the Palestinians will be their own responsibility." He expects that Israeli activists will then turn to an agenda that has long been neglected — Israeli human rights.

Israeli activists must "create a new agenda of human rights," including questions of just economic distribution, women's rights, the balance between the state and religion, and democratisation issues, such as the party system and creating a constitution, he said.

Lebanese national museum makes symbolic comeback

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanon's national museum opened its doors to the public on Friday for the first time since it was devastated by the civil war.

Located on one of the deadliest sections of the demarcation line which divided the capital during the 1975-1990 war, the yellow-stone building was the target of repeated attacks and occupied several times by armed forces.

The Committee of the Friends of the Museum, representing a group of donors, was set up in 1990 to collect funds to rebuild the museum and replace the doors and windows.

But the facade is still dotted with gaping holes, made by snipers to set up firing positions, and the total reconstruction of the museum has been estimated at costing at least \$4 million.

"We were hoping to complete most of the reconstruction work by the end of November and fully reopen the museum," said Camille Asmar, the director general of the antiquities department in Lebanon.

However, cash is still short so the museum has reopened with an exhibition of photographs of its treasures "to show the public what we have accomplished and encourage people to help finance our work," Mr. Asmar said.

Enlarged photographs showing prehistoric, Phoenician, Byzantine, Greek, Roman and Arab artefacts have been hung on cement blocks put in place during the war to protect exhibits such as an ancient sarcophagus which were too big to be removed from the museum.

Smaller objects were removed at the start of the onslaught in 1975 and most of them were placed for safekeeping in the coffers of the central bank.

Clinton expresses gratitude for Mideast progress

WASHINGTON (USIA) — President Bill Clinton, in a Thanksgiving Day proclamation, said Americans are grateful for the "dramatic progress" achieved toward a comprehensive Middle East peace and for relief efforts undertaken by the United States and other nations to aid victims of natural disasters.

"The president also cautioned that 'the troubled areas of our world continue to challenge our ability to find peaceful and equitable solutions.'"

Following is the text of the Thanksgiving Day proclamation:

From the beginnings of our nation, we have sought to recognise providence and mercy of God with words and acts of gratitude, indeed with effort and energy toward helping others wherever need occurred. In the colourful days and weeks when the autumn of the year brings ripe and fruitful

harvest across our land, Americans give thanks for many blessings. It is a time of bounty and generosity, a time to come together in peace.

This is the true spirit of Thanksgiving: acknowledging God's graciousness, and in response, reaching out in service to others. This spirit was apparent in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1621, when Pilgrim immigrants sat down with native Americans and celebrated their common harvest.

This same spirit of Thanksgiving inspires our great nation and our people to act with justice and concern toward all the peoples of the world and toward one another here at home. We are grateful for the dramatic progress made toward a comprehensive peace in the Middle East and for the agreement signed in our United States; we are thankful for the relief efforts that our nation and others have under-

taken where natural disasters have struck unmercifully.

Still, in this final decade of the 20th century, we face great challenges. The troubled areas of our world continue to challenge our ability to find peaceful and equitable solutions. On this Thanksgiving Day, the hospitality and harmony of loved ones, friends, and neighbours remind each of us that we belong to the larger family of mankind.

As we gather together during this sacred and cherished time, let us pledge to build a new America where everyone will have a place at the table, and no one will be left out. In this way we will truly maintain the spirit of Thanksgiving that has enriched our country since its beginnings. While recognising the importance of individual responsibility, we will continue to place the strength and benevolence of this great nation at the service of all its

people, indeed of all the peoples of the earth. Then, in these richer years, we will reap a true and fruitful harvest.

Now, therefore, I, William J. Clinton, president of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 25, 1993, as a National Day of Thanksgiving. I encourage the citizens of this great Nation to gather in their homes, places of worship, or wherever they may choose to express heartfelt thanks for the abundance bestowed on us throughout our history.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this seventeenth day of November, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

U.S. Senate panel passes bill against boycott of Israel

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has recommended passage of legislation that would prohibit the sale of defence articles and defence services to countries that participate in the Arab economic boycott of Israel.

The Nov. 18 committee vote sent the bill to the Senate floor.

Introduced on Nov. 4 by Senators Hank Brown (Republican of Colorado) and Daniel Patrick Moynihan (Democrat of New York), the bill provides for sanctions against countries that support the Arab boycott through letters to American companies.

According to Mr. Brown, figures compiled by the Commerce Department indicate that the boycott continues in full force despite U.S. diplomatic efforts to have it lifted.

"Between July 1 and Sept. 30, 1993, Saudi companies sent 314 letters to American companies," Mr. Brown declared as he introduced the legislation. "That is the highest number of boycott letters to United States companies in six years. Kuwaiti companies sent United States companies 31 letters in the last quarter — only 6 less than the previous quarter. Despite State Department optimism, progress appears nonexistent."

Mr. Moynihan said the bill addressed "a painful fact about the Arab League Boycott of Israel," which is that its leading enforcers include friends of the United States.

Syrian president says Yemeni unity important

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — President Hafez Al Assad told Yemen's foreign minister on Friday that Syria fully supported Yemeni unity.

"Syria is eager for Yemeni unity," presidential spokesman Joubran Koureihia quoted Mr. Assad as saying during a meeting with Mohammad Salem Basendwah.

Mr. Basendwah gave Mr. Assad a message from Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh on the latest developments in Yemen, where a dispute on power-sharing has paralysed the running of the country.

"It is very important that all parties concerned should be committed to this unity," Mr. Assad added.

Mr. Saleh, who ruled North Yemen before merger in 1990, and vice President Ali Salem Al Baccidi who ruled South Yemen have been at odds since

elections in April. Mr. Basendwah arrived in Damascus on Thursday and told reporters he would discuss bilateral, Arab and international issues.

5 killed in clashes

Five civilians have been killed in South Yemen in a clash with a northern military unit deployed in their region, military officials said Friday.

The incident Thursday afternoon raised tension and could exacerbate the political tussle. The former North and South Yemen were merged into a united republic in 1990, but recent violence and the climate of insecurity in the country are threatening the union.

The incident, in which two soldiers were also wounded, was the first of its kind. The officials, who spoke on condition they not be named,

said soldiers of the northern second Armoured Brigade "provoked" southern inhabitants by setting up checkpoints on highways linking them to the province of Aden, 200 kilometres to the south.

The soldiers have been deployed in the region of Rafa in the southern province of Lahaj since the merger. These regions, like most of Yemen, are inhabited by armed tribes.

Defence Minister Haidham Qassem Taher, himself a southerner, rushed to Rafa and ordered the immediate return of the soldiers to their barracks, said the officials. He also set up an investigating committee into the incident.

The second Armoured Brigade is one of two that were deployed from the south to the north after unification. The other, the Giants' Brigade, is posted in Abyan province, 120

kilometres east of Aden. A brigade from the less-populated south, the Koubi Brigade, was in turn deployed in the northern Damar province, just outside the capital city Sanaa.

The same officials said that about a week ago, the Koubi Brigade tried to stop six trucks laden with anti-tank guns that were destined for the northern garrisoned in the south.

Again, quick action by the defence minister defused that crisis, said the officials.

Checkpoints by the northern and southern units of the armed forces had been springing up over recent weeks, apparently part of an effort to prevent movement of weapons between the two regions.

The government has ordered the troops to return to barracks, with only partial success.

Plans to widen road through Palestinian cemetery spark protests

NESHER (AP) — Arab-Isrealis protested Friday against relocating the grave of an Islamic leader who inspired vigilante squads dedicated to fighting Israel.

The graveyard of the revered Sheikh Izzeddine Al Qasem lies in this town just above the Mediterranean part of Haifa and is blocking municipal plans to widen a main artery. The armed underground cells of the Islamic Resistance

Movement Hamas responsible for most attacks against Israel, are named for Al Qasem.

The road construction signs posted inside the weed-choked, barely marked cemetery, already sandwiched between two busy roads, provoked anger among Israel's Arab citizens.

About 200 Arabs from villages throughout the country came to the cemetery to uproot

weeds, remove pebbles and perform the holy Friday prayer in an effort to defeat the road that would serve expanding suburbs.

Al Qasem, the original advocate of the armed struggle against the British and the Jews, was killed in 1935 in a clash with British troops in the West Bank town of Yaabad. Israel considers him a "terrorist" blaming him for a series of murders of Jews. But

Palestinians consider him a hero, eulogising him for decades as the legendary leader who started the armed struggle in Palestine.

During Friday's rally, a dozen Israeli policemen including high ranking officers patrolled the site to head off clashes between Arabs and Jews. But no Jewish protesters appeared.

The leaders of the more than

800,000 Arabs who live in Israeli-occupied areas accuse the state of oblitterating Islamic monuments.

"They changed our mosques and graveyards into hotels and roads and parking lots," said Raza Salah, the Islamic mayor of Umm Al Fahm.

"I believe the planning of the road is made deliberately because of Al Qasem," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION

7:30-8:00

Feature Film: "Une Partie En Trop"

19:00 News in French

19:15 News in Arabic

19:30 News in Hebrew

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 You Bet Your Life

21:00 ThirtySomething

22:00 News in English

22:30 Legacy — "China"

23:10 The Golden Palace

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543.

American Catholic Church Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel. 625266.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 659222.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 675691.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Clouds will build up over the horizon with a chance of scattered showers.

Winds will be southwesterly active. In Amman, it will be cloudy with a chance of scattered showers. Winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp. 8/20

Amman 15/27

Jerusalem 15/27

Jordan Valley 14/26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 19, Aqaba 26, Humidity readings: Amman 76 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790276

Dr. Walid Al Masri 675485

Dr. Rana Abu Zuhair 894295

Dr. Mohammad Shwehdi 652992

Firas pharmacy 661912

Al-Musader pharmacy 778336

Al Asama pharmacy 637025

Nasrallah pharmacy 626072

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoubi pharmacy 649495

Shamsan pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

URBID:

Dr. Mohammad Al Fihri 779773

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Hussain Al Haj 984344

Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Emergency 630341

Rescue 624112

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 863630

Public Security Department 630721

Police Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 778336

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 661103

Abdullah Telephone Repairs 661103

Jordan Television 771111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power 6363

Queen encourages architectural conservation as a way for communities to endure, flourish

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday opened the symposium on the Conservation of Architectural Heritage in Jordan and the Arab World.

The symposium, held at the University of Jordan Engineering and Technology Faculty, was organised by the University's Department of Architecture, as well as the Aga Khan Unit for Islamic Studies.

The conference provides a forum in which participants will present case studies addressing issues related to cultural heritage, as well as to specific problems regarding various architectural sites around the world.

Participating countries in the symposium include the United Kingdom, India, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Libya, Pakistan, and the United States.

In his welcoming remarks, University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharibeh highlighted the emerging challenges in preserving architectural and archaeological heritages in light of modernisation. He also stressed the need for consolidated efforts in facing these challenges.

In her keynote address, the Queen, who holds a degree in architecture and urban planning from Princeton University, said that the conservation of architectural heritage is widely recognised as "a universal challenge that transcends aesthetic or historical considerations."

She added that "an emerging global consensus also appreciates indigenous architecture in terms of national economic resources, com-



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday attends the opening of the Symposium on the Conservation of Architectural Heritage in Jordan and the Arab World (Petra photo)

community values, cultural traditions and human identity."

The Queen stressed that while societies are often torn between tradition and modernity, the conservation of architectural heritage "is not merely about saving buildings... it is about preserving physical structures that embody cultural traditions and human values that have helped communities to endure and flourish."

Queen Noor added that fostering greater appreciation for the cultural importance and economic relevance of architectural conservation should be a priority.

The Queen cited several examples of sites in Jordan that have been reused in "a manner that is culturally and economi-

cally successful," such as the Kan Zaman farmstead at Yaddouh, the rest house, museum and archaeological dighouse at Umm Qais, Sherif Hussein's house in Aqaba, and the Darat Al-Funun arts complex in Amman.

A project initiated by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature links the architectural renovation of the abandoned village of Dana, in the South of Jordan, to the "nature reserve and to the revival of ancient agricultural fields and traditional handicrafts."

This case best exemplifies the preservation of architectural heritage as "one of several elements within an integrated model of human development that is environmentally sensi-

tive, culturally credible and economically viable," the Queen added.

The Queen's continuing efforts in this area are reflected in her involvement with various organisations and committees, such as the Petra National Trust, of which she is the honorary chairperson, and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature.

Receiving Queen Noor upon arrival were president Gharaibeh, as well as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology Mohammad Abdul Aziz, Vice-President of Academic Affairs Mohammad Al Maqoussi, and Conference Chairman Kamel Mahadin.

Accompanying the Queen to the symposium was Her Highness Princess Wijdan Ali.

Crown Prince calls for stronger Jordanian-Russian economic links

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday called for stronger trade links between Jordan and Russia, saying that those links would benefit the peoples of both countries.

Addressing the opening session of a round table meeting between Jordanian and Russian economists and officials, the Crown Prince said that Jordan can contribute to the development of the Russian Federation in the banking and financial fields due to its experiences in these areas and in view of its central geographical location in the Middle East region.

Organised by the Hashemite Association for International Economic Cooperation, the four-day meeting aims at promoting Jordan's role as a regional economic centre. The meeting is held under the slogan: Jordan: Middle East Gate and a Window on the World.

The meeting, held under the patronage of Prince Hassan and Vladimir Chomiko, first deputy prime minister of Russia, will draw attention to the need to promote economic and trade relations between Jordan and Russia, according to the organisers.

The beginning of the last decade of the 20th century was a turning point for both Russia and Jordan in their cultural, social, political and economic transformation for years to come, said Prince Hassan.

He said that the convening of the first round table meeting by the two countries, demonstrates the determination of Moscow and Amman to increase the volume of their exchanged trade and to embark on new areas of joint investment projects.

It is incumbent on the two sides to provide a mechanism



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Saturday addresses the opening session of a roundtable meeting between Jordanian and Russian economists (Petra photo)

that would facilitate economic cooperation and to set up arbitration commissions that would settle trade disputes fairly and honestly, Prince Hassan added.

"We do realise the increasing economic importance of the Russian Federation and we seek to widen the scope of our cooperation with that country through the organisations that possess vast experience in trade and investments projects," Prince Hassan said.

Prince Hassan said the convening of the round table comes over a week after parliamentary elections were held and the chance is open for our Russian friends to witness democracy in the making based on political pluralism and one that respects human rights and guarantees freedoms."

"Jordan's democratic march assumes credibility through the enhancement of the spirit of social justice, moderation and religious tolerance, which (are) characteristic of the Jordanian society," added Prince Hassan.

Addressing the Russian participants, the Prince said: "Your visit here coincided with rising hope for the Middle East peace process to yield fruit. This progress reflects Jordan's response to the regional and international situations and helps the Palestinian people to attain their rights and at the same time attain a just and honourable peace for all parties to the Middle East conflict, paving the way for a new era of prosperity and regional cooperation for development."

Prince Hassan said, the Russian Federation is playing a constructive role that could

give momentum to the peace process and to world stability and peace.

Before the opening session, Prince Hassan met with Mr. Chomiko to review bilateral cooperation in economic fields.

The meeting was attended by Yanal Hikmat, adviser of His Majesty King Hussein and the Russian Ambassador to Jordan.

Mr. Chomiko said he was carrying a message to King Hussein from Russian President Boris Yeltsin reflecting Russia's concern and interest in the meeting, which he said is bound to promote mutual cooperation.

Solar energy meeting to review alternative sources of energy

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Fourth Arab International Conference on Solar Energy will open at the Royal Cultural Centre Sunday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The participants who represent 25 Arab and European countries as well as the U.S. will review working papers and studies on solar energy, solar radiation, photo voltatics and means of developing solar energy through modern technology.

Several papers will discuss wind power, refrigeration and heating systems and other forms of alternative energy sources.

Scientists from the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), which is organising the meeting, will participate in the discussions. An RSS source said that several Arab and International organisations concerned with alternative sources of energy

will also take part in the meeting.

He said that during the five-day meeting the participants will be taken to field trips including a visit to the RSS Training Centre set up at Azraq.

The source said that the participants will present their individual countries' experiments in developing alternative energy sources, especially solar and wind power.

WHAT'S ON EXHIBITIONS

★ Graphic exhibition by Syrian artist Sa'd Hajjo at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Flower and triot exhibition at Sabha Association for Social Development in Mafrq.

★ Exhibition of children's drawings, paintings, and photographs at YWCA premises (11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

★ Art exhibition by plastic artist Hassan Al Dasouqi at the student multi-purpose building at the University of Jordan.

★ The Palestinian embroidery exhibit at the Royal Cultural Centre (daily 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.)

★ Art exhibition by artist Intisar Qaddurah at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel.

★ Art exhibition (drawing on mirrors and glass, and ceramics) by women engineers at the Jordan Engineers Association.

★ Art exhibition by plastic artist Anwar Haddadin at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition entitled "Mirage" by artist Ali' Al Shanti at Al-Had' Art Gallery — Mecca Street.

★ Exhibition of lithographs by a number of artists at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of coins at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Fahmi Al Qaysi at the Alia Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by artist Ibrahim Al Nashashibi at Baladna Art Gallery (Gardens Street).

★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Rakan Dabbouh at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

★ Art exhibition by a number of artists at the Student Affairs Deanship Building at the University of Jordan.

★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Funun of the Abdull Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lwailbeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)

DRAMAS

★ Drama in Arabic entitled "The Uproarious House" at Samir Al Rifa'i Auditorium at the University of Jordan at 3:00 p.m.

FILM

★ Film entitled "The Omega Man" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (98 minutes).

AUTO SHOW

★ Auto show 1994 at the Amman International Auto Exhibition.

QAIA terminals to get billboards illuminated

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Bahrain-based Gulf Media International (GMT) Saturday concluded a contract with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to install illuminated billboards in the passenger lounge of Queen Alia International Airport.

Ahmad Jweiber told the Jordan Times that the company, which has world wide interests and vast experience, will undertake the task of marketing and procuring the billboards to be set up at the airport.

Under the terms of the agreement, the CAA will earn

60 per cent of the total profits from revenues; GMT will earn 40 per cent, said Mr. Jweiber.

Noting that the five-year contract will take effect in two months, Mr. Jweiber said that GMT has already started placing advertisements in local and international media in order to market this business.

Malhas returns from successful trip to Beirut

AMMAN (Petra) — Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas Saturday returned to Amman from Beirut describing his visit to Lebanon and talks with officials there as fruitful, constructive and successful. During the three-day visit, the minister said he met with Lebanon's Prime

Minister Rafik Al Hariri and Lebanese counterpart, as well as the vice president of the American University of Beirut (AUB). Discussions with the officials, he said, covered issues of common interest to both countries.

Minister Rafik Al Hariri and Lebanese counterpart, as well as the vice president of the American University of Beirut (AUB). Discussions with the officials, he said, covered issues of common interest to both countries.

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For further information and enrolment, please contact: Rula Nashashibi
Tel: 715553/47 Ext: 228, Fax: 962-715570
Fees: 95 J.D

Minister urges close cooperation in combating illicit drug trafficking

AMMAN (J.T.) — Finance Minister Sami Gammoh Saturday opened a two-week training seminar on ways to combat drug trafficking by calling for closer international cooperation.

Jordan is exerting tremendous efforts in this area and has been cooperating with other governments and international organisations and achieving success, said the minister in an opening address.

Organised by the Brussels-

based Customs Cooperation Council (CCC), the training seminar will examine modern means of fighting illicit drug trafficking and international cooperation to achieve this end.

Customs work is not confined to combating drug trafficking, but covers various endeavours to fight smuggling in general and illicit trading of merchandise, said the minister.

Mr. Gammoh urged governments to offer all possible

assistance to their respective law enforcement authorities.

He said smuggling continues to pose a serious material and moral threat to national economies and international trade.

A total of 16 participants representing Jordan, the United Emirates, Libya, Egypt, and Iran are involved in the seminar.

The CCC, founded in 1950, aims to study all matters related to cooperation in customs affairs examination of technic-

al aspects of customs systems with a view to attaining harmony and uniformity, preparation of conventions and recommendations and ensuring uniform interpretation and application of customs conventions.

In addition the CCC contributes to the settlement of customs disputes and provides nations with advice regarding customs regulations and paves the ground for international customs cooperation.

Dutch cyclists stopover in Jordan on aid mission for Tunisian children

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three young Dutch cyclists have made a stopover in Jordan before continuing to other countries in the region next week on a mission coordinated with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to raise money to help poor children in Tunisia.

This programme is one of many UNICEF is conducting to collect money for the poor in the world, said Norbert Van Der Straaten, 23, one of three volunteers on this project.

According to Mr. Straaten,

Tunisian children between the ages of 6 and 12 lack the necessary funds to attend school. He said the donated money will be used to improve the education system in Tunisia and to send youth to vocational training schools to learn skills that will enable them to depend on themselves and live on what they produce.

In El Kef, the poor region in Tunisia they are working for, said Mr. Straaten, only 20 per cent of children get an opportunity to attend school. Ton De Mik, 22, another of the cyclists, said the idea of this trip was discussed three years ago.

"We were once looking at a big map and we said let's travel around the world," said Mr. De Mik.

"We agreed that since we were travelling the world why don't we do something useful at the same time, so we contacted UNICEF."

The three men are travelling on their own expense, according to Jan Pieter Broekhoven, 25, the third cyclist.

"We all worked in Holland to save money to be able to afford the trip," Mr. Broekhoven said.

The trio told the Jordan Times they organised a lottery in Delft, Holland, the starting point of their trip and the revenue will be given to UNICEF to give to Tunisia.

Sponsors of their mission were a big asset, Mr. Straaten said.

Victorya Tyres (a company in Holland) supplied them with 36 tyres to complete their long journey and Feyenoord, a professional soccer team in Holland, are helping the cyclists sell lottery tickets.

"Our goal is to finish the trip in six months... depending on the weather, and other circumstances," said Mr. Straaten who started cycling at the age of 12, encouraged by his father.

Thus far, their trip has taken them to Belgium, Luxembourg, France, Switzerland, Italy, Greece, Turkey and Syria, before stopping in Jordan.

They said they plan to stay in the Kingdom another week.

and visit some sights on their bicycles before leaving to Egypt.

The trio told the Jordan Times that this trip was a great opportunity to be exposed to new cultures.

"We have noticed that people's treatment of tourists differed from how it is in Europe. People, especially in the Middle East, invite us to their homes although they don't know us, while in Europe people are nice only if they know us," Mr. Mik said.

Mr. Straaten said this trip gave him new knowledge about the Middle East and the rest of the countries they visited. "After what I have experienced in my travels, I will be able to build my own image about the Middle East, rather than depending on the media's image," Mr. Straaten said.

"People in Jordan are more relaxed than I thought they would be, and everything is stable, and we felt that nothing bad was going to happen. While in Turkey for example, we felt that the atmosphere was 'tense'," he added. Mr. Broekhoven said they expect to raise approximately \$30,000 to aid the Tunisian children.

The three said they decided to postpone their university studies for one year in work for this project.

"It is worth missing one school year to do this project that should help many need children in Tunisia, as well as children of the rest of the world," he said.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Christopher holds the key

IT IS no secret that the stalemate in the Syrian-Israeli peace talks is holding up progress on other fronts. Even though the PLO and Jordan have signed preliminary agreements with Israel, it is clear by now that further progress on these two tracks cannot be attained in the absence of meaningful progress on the Israeli-Syrian level. This explains the sense of urgency associated with the impending visit of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to the area in early December.

The Syrians hold important keys with regard not only to their own dimension of the peace talks but also those affecting the Lebanese and Palestinians as well. In addition to the fact that the Lebanese cannot move except with the Syrians, many Palestinian factions, bitterly opposed to the Palestinian self-rule agreement of Sept. 13, are for all intents and purposes under the Syrian control. The stand of these factions is very critical to the success of the peace process because continued violence in the occupied territories is threatening to abort the process in its infancy.

Recent polls in Israel show that public support for the peace process is waning due to recent attacks by Hamas and other radical Palestinian groups on Israelis. Unless the Palestinians unify their ranks there are fears that a weak PLO would not be able to wrest from Israel the aspired-for Palestinian national rights. This is where Damascus can lend support, something that cannot be attained unless a significant breakthrough on the Syrian track is achieved. There appears to be no valid reason for lack of progress on the Syrian front since Damascus has already made its intention clear. Full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights in return for full peace. This then is a sensible negotiating stance that calls for appreciation.

Palestinian support for the Gaza-Jericho agreement cannot be expected to maintain impetus unless a more accelerated agreement on the thorny issues that still divide the two sides is reached. The hands of the Palestinian opposition would continue to be strengthened as long as the Sept. 13 pact is devoid of any real and tangible results. According to the PLO there are still three formidable problems facing the Palestinian and Israeli negotiators at the Cairo meetings: Control over border crossings, the size of the Jericho area and the release of Palestinian prisoners. There is therefore a race with time on all fronts, and unless Mr. Christopher's trip succeeds in undoing the several knots that complicate and impede the quest for comprehensive peace, there is every reason to conclude that the euphoria associated with the earlier breakthroughs could be short-lived.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Saturday said that the lapse of two months since the signing of the Israeli-PLO deal does not mean the return of the rights of the Palestinian people or the liberation of Arab lands. Neither have the negotiations along the different Arab-Israeli tracks produced any formula that would justify the lifting of the Arab boycott of Israel regulations, said the daily. The paper said that the Israeli repression has increased in intensity as Israel continues to hold on to occupied Arab lands. At the same time, the paper said, the Israelis refuse to withdraw from the Golan and Lebanon and continue to acquire full backing from the United States for its policies and practices, added the daily. It said that while the United States continues to impose U.N. sanctions on Iraq, its senators demand that the Arabs end their boycott of Israel regulations. Furthermore, the United States Congress is currently contemplating the idea of imposing economic sanctions on countries that do not abide by the Arab countries' regulations at a time when Washington is maintaining rules designed to starve the Iraqi people and deprive Iraqi children of medicine, the paper added. It said that it is not only the western allies who are to blame for the plight of the Iraqi people, but rather the Islamic and Arab countries which help maintain such a crime on the innocent population.

AL DUSTOUR criticised the ongoing negotiations between the Arabs and Israel, stressing that nothing has been achieved despite the meetings over two years. If anything, the paper said, the negotiations have encouraged Israel to pursue its atrocities and repression against the Palestinians. While deceiving the world about prospects for peace, Israel escalates its repression and its atrocities against the civilian population, killing more Palestinians and detaining others, said the paper. If the Americans are really concerned about the attainment of peace in our region, they ought to deal first with the situation in the occupied Arab lands and should pressure Israel into stopping its atrocities, demanded the paper. Repression, intimidation and occupation run contrary to the requirements of peace and security with the declared statements and intentions about the prospects of peace in the Middle East, added the paper. It said that the more repression practised on the Palestinians, the more they will be determined to cling to their land and freedom.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

Bankers' perceptions of credit ceiling

In its fifth monthly issue, "Political Perspectives", a monthly publication issued by Noor Al Amjad Foundation, surveyed Jordanian bankers and businessmen on their perception of the monetary policies adopted by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ). The survey covered 139 bankers and 14 businessmen, and included 15 questions related to the imposition of a ceiling on credit.

One could ask what would be the use of surveying people over a technical issue, such as credit ceiling, when one can go directly to the authority concerned, i.e. the CBJ, and enquire about the fact.

The answer to this question is that the survey is not about the facts as they are, but about the facts as they are perceived by those concerned.

With this in mind, we go through this survey, which covered bankers and businessmen, who are supposed to be well informed.

The main reason why the Central Bank imposed ceilings on credit is compliance with the IMF conditions stated the interviewees. This is true, but one should take into account that the ceiling was worked out not solely by the IMF, but in cooperation with the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance. The logic behind it is to prevent inflation and curb the aggregate demand. Apparently this fact was visible to almost half of those surveyed who, in answering the second

question, indicated that the ceiling was not simply imposed, but agreed upon between the IMF and CBJ.

The majority of those surveyed fell in the trap of the third question, when 60 per cent agreed with the suggestion to invest the excess banks' liquidity in government bonds. Such a step will only transfer liquidity to the public sector. Besides, government bonds are not readily available. New issues are scarce. The government is no more in need to borrow extensively and it has its own ceiling of borrowing to abide by.

In answering the fourth question, the majority of those surveyed suggested that the credit ceiling will strengthen the dinar against foreign currencies. This may be true only marginally. Credit ceiling is not meant to influence exchange rate, but domestic demand.

In answering the fifth question, the sample agreed that the credit ceiling was meant to control inflation; those survey were tempted not to do so upon answering the first question because they were given another, more appealing, reason which is the IMF conditions.

It was nice to find that almost three quarters of the sample trust the central bank. This is of course crucial for the public confidence.

The members of the sample also showed that using the dinar as a currency in the Palestinian autonomous entity and allowing Jordanian banks to branch out there is beneficial to

the Jordanian economy, as indicated in answering questions eight, nine and 10.

The sample estimated that the credit ceiling will improve the distribution of resources, and not cause capital flight, as was shown in answering question 11.

The majority though missed the point when they did not realise that the imposition of a ceiling as a ratio of the present level will definitely affect small and new banks more, because 9 per cent of Arab Bank credit stock is a lot, while 9 per cent of the credit of the newly formed Middle East Bank or Philadelphia Bank or ABC Bank is too little for their endeavour to catch up with well-established banks.

In answering questions No. 13 and 14, the surveyed bankers and businessmen stated the obvious when they were inclined to believe that credit restriction is not, in general, good for new investors, or industrialists who look for expansion and that Petra Bank failure was not a reason behind the imposition of credit ceilings.

Finally, a vast majority decided that inflation is a major evil and in order to lessen it, they were ready to sacrifice even growth.

In conclusion, one can see that when it comes to the monetary policy, bankers and businessmen in Jordan are prudent, conservative and well informed.

The lessons of the November elections

By Dr. James Zogby

Republicans swept the three most hotly contested and high stakes elections of November 1993, stirring a national debate over the impact the Democratic defeats will have on the year-old Clinton administration.

In governor's races in Virginia and New Jersey, and in the mayoral race in New York, Republicans ended long-time Democratic Party rule. When added to the Republican victories earlier this year in the mayoral races in Los Angeles and Jersey City, and the special Senate election in Texas, 1993 looks like a very bad year for Democratic incumbents.

Virginia

Twelve years of Democratic Party control of the governor's mansion in Richmond ended with George Allen's victory over Mary Sue Terry. But it might in all fairness be said that Republicans did not win this election so much as the Democrats self-destructed and lost it.

After more than a decade of fairly effective rule which lent the Democrats an air of well-deserved confidence, current Democratic Governor Doug Wilder and the Democratic Senator Chuck Robb revived their long-running feud just as Ms. Terry was starting her gubernatorial campaign. Their four-year long feud has been sufficiently harsh and public enough to tarnish the image of the entire state's Democratic Party.

This negative image added to the lackluster campaign run by Mary Sue Terry, which was devoid of substance and lacking in charisma and fire, and managed to change a 30 point Ms. Terry lead in the polls to an embarrassing 17 point defeat. Ms. Terry attempted to strike a conservative "tough on crime" stance, tying together support for a strong death penalty law and gun control in an effort to convince voters that she was not a "soft" woman candidate. But the image never took, and the voters ended up choosing the genuinely conservative George Allen.

Though Virginia borders the nation's capital, Ms. Terry never invited President Bill Clinton to campaign with her because the Clinton's approval rating in the state is very low; and she did not campaign with Governor Wilder until very late in the race. Mr. Allen, on the other hand, made use of as many major Republican leaders as he could. Even former

President Richard Nixon participated in one of Mr. Allen's fundraising events.

One last major factor in the Virginia election was the strong emergence of the organized, conservative Christian Evangelical movement as part of the mainstream Republican coalition. Since the rise of the Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson organisations a decade ago, the "religious right" (as they are frequently called) has been building a strong base in the Republican Party. This year, in Virginia, they proved themselves a dominant factor in the Republican electoral victory. While one of their leaders lost his bid to become lieutenant governor, the movement demonstrated substantial political organisation and muscle.

In the end, Ms. Terry's campaign never served to distinguish her in the minds of the voters or separate her from the image of her party, and she went down to defeat at the hands of an electorate seized by an anti incumbent mood.

The "religious right's" conservative social and political messages present a clear challenge to liberal ideologies on issues like crime, abortion, education, welfare, and all policy areas where individual responsibility plays a role.

On foreign policy questions, the movement puts forth a less coherent message. For example, while their leaders were extremely anti-Soviet and fervently pro-Israel (since in their theology they believe that only when Israel conquers its enemies will the messiah return to save the "chosen"), the followers of the movement do not always agree on these issues. Nevertheless, the "religious right" has clearly become a force to be reckoned with because of its demonstrated ability to define an issues agenda and win elections.

New Jersey

The single most important factor in Democratic Governor Jim Florio's defeat this November was his decision to raise taxes in his first year in office in 1990.

Upon assuming office that year, Mr. Florio faced a staggering state budget deficit and a state treasury unable to meet payroll and provide essential services. Acting out of courage or, as some would say, political foolishness, Mr. Florio took a decisive stand. He pushed through a massive \$2.8 billion tax increase and slashed state services in an effort to set the state's finances in order. Public outrage was intense.

Mr. Florio faced a statewide protest movement that sought

to remove him from office. The effort failed then, but succeeded last week — and the lesson will not be lost on Bill Clinton. Mr. Florio lost because he raised to cut the deficit and the voters never forgave him.

Surprisingly, this was not the outcome expected by most analysts. In fact, it appeared just one week before the election that voters had either forgotten Mr. Florio's "crime" or simply forgiven him. The governor held a "commanding" lead in the polls — as high as 7 per cent the day before the election. And unlike Mary Sue Terry, Mr. Florio had run an excellent campaign, was personally regarded as tough when he needed to be and even exhibited some charisma.

Mr. Florio did invite Mr. Clinton to New Jersey to campaign for him, and the White House responded. During the weeks leading up to the election, President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore and a number of cabinet members all came to support Mr. Florio's reelection effort. This intense White House involvement seems due to Mr. Clinton's realisation that a Florio victory would be important because the New Jersey governor's record so closely paralleled his own. Mr. Florio's campaign management team was even the same one that had helped Mr. Clinton get elected last year.

But Republican victor Christie Todd Whitman had big guns in her camp, too. Ed Rollins, the mastermind behind Ronald Reagan's 1984 electoral landslide, served as her chief strategist. Ms. Rollins was assisted by Lyn Notziger, a veteran of the first Reagan White House. They helped Ms. Whitman to overcome some early stumbles and then, in the final days of the race, they closed the gap with Mr. Florio with a string of speeches and advertisements designed to remind voters why they were so angry with Mr. Florio in 1990.

Still, in the end, as in Virginia, it was more of a Democratic defeat than a Republican victory. The margin was a mere 37,000 votes out of the more than 2.4 million votes cast. New Jersey was another victory for the anti-incumbent sentiment and sent a strong message on taxes.

New York City

Republican Rudolph Giuliani's race against incumbent Democratic Mayor David Dinkins was a rematch of the

1989 election. That year Mr. Dinkins won by a small margin; this year, Mr. Giuliani managed to flip the votes of a mere 100,000 (of the roughly 2 million total votes) to end Democratic rule in the largest city in the U.S.

Mr. Dinkins, who by all accounts is one of most decent and honourable men in politics, faced enormous difficulties dealing with the divisive and systemic problems plaguing New York City. His efforts to bring people together ran into events and diversions that proved to be his undoing.

The Crown Heights killings and riots brought about deep frictions between New York's Jewish and African American residents. At first, Mr. Dinkins hesitated in condemning the African American riots and then he appeared to side too closely with the Jewish community. In an effort to act in a balanced manner and heal rather than contribute to division, he ended up annoying both communities.

Mr. Dinkins' Republican opponent, Rudolph Giuliani, is a former U.S. attorney in New York City with a strong record as a crime fighter. He latched onto the Crown Heights affair to paint Mr. Dinkins as a weak and indecisive mayor incapable of governing the city. Mr. Giuliani raised the issue of crime and judiciary, and the matter of race. There is no question that in the minds of many white New Yorkers, "crime" is a code-word for the fear that many whites have of African Americans.

Mr. Dinkins' effort to challenge this racial politics backfire and only further angered white voters who turned against him. Exit polls showed that the 51 per cent to 49 per cent Giuliani victory was the result of a very polarised vote. Mr. Giuliani won the white vote 77 per cent to 21 per cent; Dinkins won the African American vote 95 per cent to 5 per cent and the Latino vote 60 per cent to 38 per cent. Mr. Dinkins even lost the traditionally liberal Jewish vote 68 per cent to 32 per cent.

And though Mr. Clinton did campaign with Mr. Dinkins, the race was just too tightly focused on New York-specific issues for the president to have much of an impact.

It is not at all clear that any of these elections was a referendum on Mr. Clinton's presidency. In fact, all three races were decided on the basis of local issues and the failure of local Democratic campaigns.

LETTERS

University and its role

To the Editor:

After having read Dr. Ahmad Majdoub's article "University education and future citizens' aspirations and fears" (Jordan Times, Oct. 10, 1993), I thought I could express my opinion on the role of the university in shaping future generations.

The university is the main educational and academic institution that is supposed to graduate well-qualified young people with powerful abilities and faculties. These students are accordingly supposed to be capable of leading both the country and the nation. Some of our universities however have deviated from their intended role and objective. Hence, some flaws have plagued some of our universities and these flaws are on the rise, which makes it urgent to seek remedies.

Unfortunately, some monotonous, valueless, classical and traditional methods of teaching are still used by some of the professors in some of our universities. Some of these professors tend to stuff the minds of their students with a great deal of information that should be learnt totally by heart without giving the student the opportunity to properly benefit from it. The student, therefore, is treated as a machine that swallows up this big amount of information. This would take a great deal of time from the students to memorise the information that would, more often than not, be forgotten immediately after the hour of the exam.

This in fact leads to a more serious problem. Most of the students are not acquainted with their specialisation, and, therefore, do not know much about other fields of study. This is mainly due to lack of time, since students tend to devote most of their time to study their own courses. Students are therefore, deprived of enjoying their hobbies because study researches, exams, ...etc, are the only obsession that preoccupy them totally. All of this would inevitably lead to the deterioration of culture and common knowledge of university students.

Moreover, some of our universities are mainly after the financial profit. They suck the blood of their students at the beginning of every semester. This problem clashes with the universities' objectives and teaching-learning process. Teaching and learning can never be commercial.

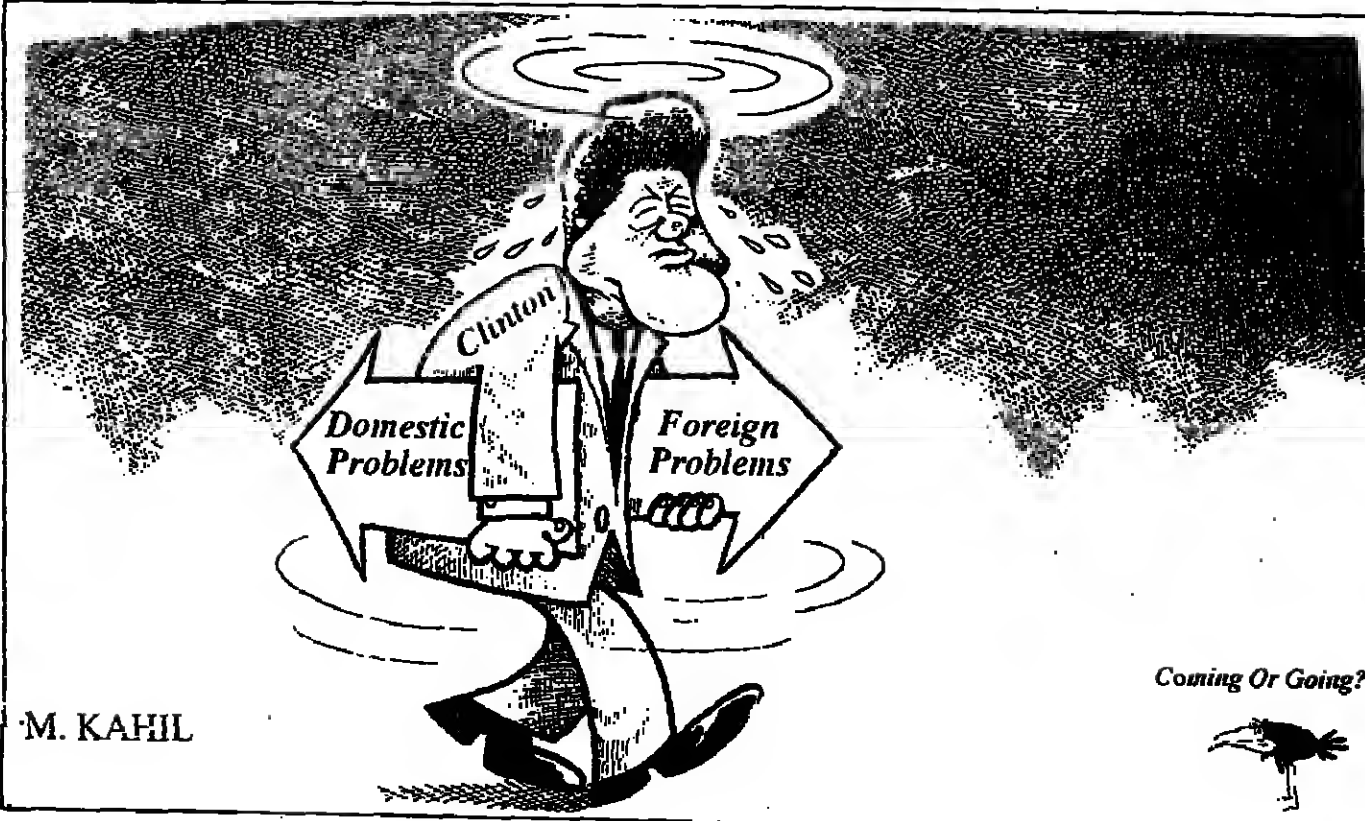
There are some other problems and issues that contribute to hindering the process of education. Campuses have become a place where the latest vogue, the most modern and craziest fashions are displayed by students. The campus has become a stage where improper, inappropriate and exaggerated make-ups, strange haircuts, highly expensive perfumes, ornamental devices, glasses and so many bizarre things are exhibited and commercialised day in, day out. All of this, in fact, is against and would negatively affect the teaching learning process and, then, the objectives of our universities. This, above all, would insult our Islamic morals and traditions.

Finally, it is noticeable that some scientific courses which are supposed to be taught in laboratories are taught theoretically in the classroom; and that is due to lack of time or shortage in instruments in laboratories, or both. Furthermore, a big number of essential books and periodicals are not available in some libraries of these universities. These books and journals are so important and not expensive for the universities' financial abilities.

There is much more that can be said about numerous issues and problems in our universities. I wish that all of these flaws and defects would be remedied soon.

Qusai Anwar Al Thebyan,
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The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



M. KAHIL

Coming Or Going?



Israel, Palestinians should build high-tech second Jordan River

By Marcia Merry

The Jordan River is one of civilisation's most famous natural resources, and if the economic protocols of the new Mideast peace accords are quickly and rightly carried out with advanced technology mutual benefit projects, then the world can soon have a "new" Jordan River to celebrate for generations to come. Construction of a series of nuclear-powered, desalting plants in this region can, soon after the turn of the century, provide the same amounts of fresh water to the Jordan River Basin population as they are receiving now from natural run-off and groundwater sources. That will be the only way to carry out the spirit and "letter of the law" of the historic new peace accords.

expertise of Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, Egyptian and other engineers and scientists the world over, to carry out the necessary tasks.

Make new supplies

Annex III of the accords, the economic protocol titled "Protocol on Israeli-Palestinian Cooperation in Economic and Development Programmes," lists nine points, beginning with water: "Cooperation in the field of water, including a Water Development Programme prepared by experts from both sides, which will also specify the mode of cooperation in the management of water resources in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and will include proposals for studies and plans on water rights of each party, as well as in the equitable

It should be clearly understood by everyone concerned with peace in the Middle East and worldwide that the only way to carry out these historic protocols requiring "cooperation" in managing water resources and "equitable utilisation" of joint water supplies, as well as electricity, is to make new supplies.

To be sure, there are gross inequities in the current pattern of rates of water and power in use per capita in Israel, Jordan, and the Gaza Strip and West Bank. The crisis state has been reached where residents in the Gaza camps have only about 44 litres of water a day for personal use (for all purposes of hygiene, drinking and cooking, etc.), which is less than the minimum emergency ration specified by even the World Health Organisation. Hospitals in Gaza are without continuous electricity, besides lacking other supplies.

However, even these inequities are overshadowed by the obvious point that wholly new sources of water and power must be provided if all peoples are to have the right to rates of supplies and usage of water and power, per capita and per hectare, that will guarantee healthy lives, a growing economy, and enhancement of the environment.

Old Jordan River running dry

As of at least two decades ago, rates of water usage in the entire Jordan River Basin had exceeded all available supplies — no matter how fairly or unfairly these supplies were divided up among the downriver peoples. There has been overpumping from the West Bank aquifers, to the point that this resource base itself is being destroyed. Underground water is turning saline. The Jordan River water flow has fallen to practically a trickle at the point where it enters the Dead Sea. Its feeder waters are being drawn off farther upstream and nothing is left by this point. The Dead Sea itself is shrinking drastically.

As hydrologists measure it, Israel is now making use of 88 per cent of what is called "available renewable supplies" of water, a world-record high rate. Most nations of the world are using perhaps 15-30 per cent of their technically available supplies.

Table 1 and Figure 1 show the location and small volumes of existing water supplies and the location and volume of potential new supplies.

Section 1 of the table lists the principal sources by name, and the map shows their location. The Jordan River proper is formed inside the boundaries of Israel in the north, at the point where the Dan, the Hasbani and Banias rivers come together. Thence flows what is known as the upper Jordan, into Lake Tiberias.

As of 1964, Israel completed construction of the national water carrier and its offshoots, to draw water out of the upper Jordan system and distribute it throughout Israel. Additionally, significant amounts of water are pumped into the system from aquifers arising in the West Bank. The delivery system reaches down into the Negev.

As of 1966, Jordan had completed construction of the East Ghor distribution system, running parallel to the upper Jordan. Originally, this was just one part of a larger water improvement programme, called the Greater Yarmuk Project, but this was not completed because of political strife and Israel's increased use of the basin waters.

However, Israel itself, despite making claim to larger amounts of water and despite implementing water recycling and reclamation projects was severely short of water as of the 1980s. Jordan has even less water use per capita and per hectare. When the mid-1980s droughts set in, the water shortages were dramatic. Israel cut agricultural use of water for the first time in 1986, by about 10 per cent. Then in 1990, water use was cut back by 37 per cent.

Meanwhile, 1 million Arab residents of the West Bank have been restricted by Israel to merely 125 million cubic metres (mcm) of water a year, compared to a need for hundreds of million more. When Jordan took in some 300,000 refugees after the Gulf war, there were no new water supplies to accommodate them. There are many other examples.

Nuclear power for fresh water

For over 15 years, Executive Intelligence Review (EIR) has specialised in publicising the technologies that could, if applied, provide the new volumes of water and power for a new Jordan River and a new Mideast. What is presented here is a summary picture of what is involved in equitable water development.

Figure 1 shows the location of three canals in the southern Jordan River Basin and vicinity: The Med-Dead Canal from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea; the Dead-Red Canal from the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba, an inlet of the Red Sea; and a new cut for the Suez Canal connection of the Mediterranean Sea to the Red Sea. These projects have been discussed for decades, in various forms.

However, the purpose is to provide inland channels of seawater, as both waterways for transport and along which "nuclepexes" can be located — nuclear-powered desalting facilities, around which can be built high-tech food production systems, industrial activities, and cultural, medical, and other service centres in order to serve whole new towns for millions of people. Figure 2 shows an artist's sketch of the idea of such a man-made oasis town in the desert.

In addition, water and power from the nuclepexes can be drawn off into pre-existing and new expanded power grids and water tunnels, to provide new supplies to the existing towns of the West Bank, Gaza, and Israel. The calculations shown in the reference table focus on what that would mean per capita and per hectare for the Jordan River Basin, apart from the Suez region in Egypt, because the new peace accords focus on the priorities of improving living standards in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, for self-government.

The "new Jordan River" thus consists of the totality of the volume of new fresh water provided, rather than a new stream riverbed.

Section II of Table 1 shows the relative volumes of water possible from one such nuclepex, all the way to 35 such nuclepexes. The map shows the hypothetical sites of a number of nuclepexes along all three canal routes. One nuclear-powered desalting plant can provide 146 million cubic metres of water per

year — more than the flow from the lower Jordan at present! This is the perfect show-piece project for the Mediterranean coastline itself, where the accords mandate a new port city at Gaza.

As the table shows, five installed nuclear desalting plants will provide in increment of

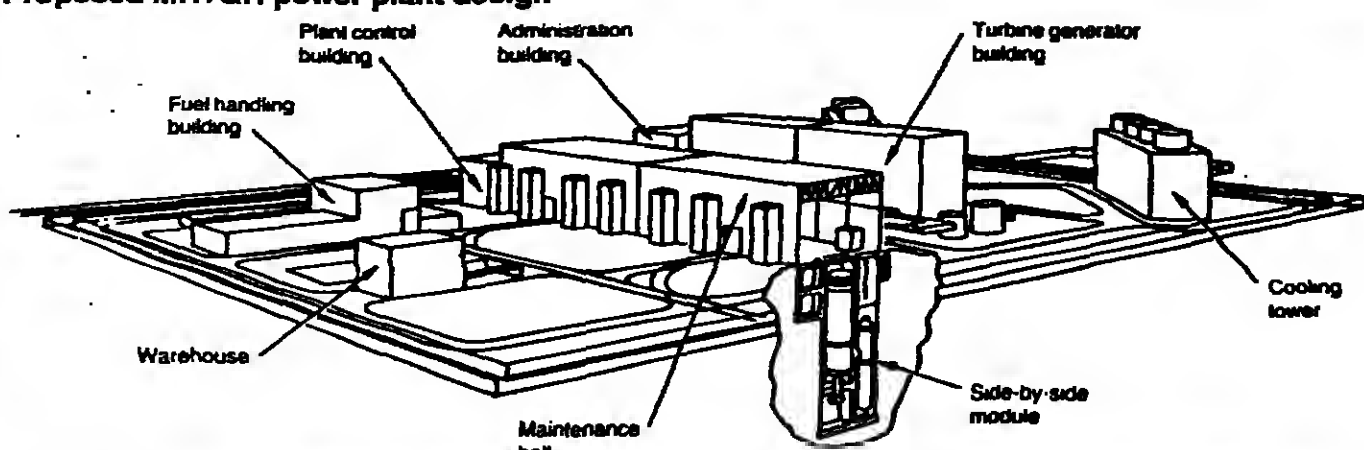
temperature, helium gas-cooled reactor (HTGR) with four modular reactor units underground, and an electrical output of 466 MWe net, after fueling the attached multi-stage flash distillation process. As of 1990, the estimated annualised capital cost of such a plant was \$143.3 million for

the first one, and \$125.9 for the nth of a kind. The total annualised cost (including capitalisation, fuel, operating and maintenance, decommissioning after 40 years, and everything) was put at \$249.2 million for one, and \$210.3 for the nth of a kind.

A Europe-based proposal,

involving Asea Brown-Boveri and Siemens, is especially designed for mass production, in a way that component parts can be manufactured in Europe; and shipped by water into place in the Mideast for permanent installation — Executive Intelligence Review, Washington.

FIGURE 2
Proposed MHTGR power plant design



This General Atomics power plant design has four MHTGR modules, each at 135 megawatts-electric, for a total power output of about 540 megawatts. The reactor module, called the nuclear island, is completely separate from the electric power generating system. It is housed in a below-ground concrete silo. Each of the four nuclear islands is an independent confinement structure, with its own exhaust system.

730 mcm over present-day use. Ten plants will mean an increment of 1,460 mcm, and so on as far as plans go, until superior designs and ways to desalt water are brought on line. It would take about 22 of the type of plant considered here to provide the volume of water equal to the current 3,500 mcm of renewable water in the Jordan River Basin — in other words, a second Jordan River.

Another river

Another way to conceptualise what the new volumes of water mean to the Mideast, is to consider the product water from the nuclear-powered desalting plants in terms of its equivalency in flow rates to famous rivers in other parts of the world.

The flow rate of ten nuclear-powered desalting plants would add up to about 46.5 cubic metres per second (cms). This is comparable to the following rivers familiar in other countries:

- The Thames at Teddington, England in June, 43.6 cms.
- The Red River of the North in the United States at Grand Forks, North Dakota in August, 44 cms.
- The Oise at Creil, France in August, 39.7 cms.
- The Main at Kempten, Germany in November, 41.3 cms.

Table 1 also indicates roughly what the new volumes of water mean for meeting the needs of a growing population. The right-hand column of Section II shows the existing rates of water use in per capita and per hectare terms in the immediate regions of the West Bank, Jordan, and Israel. Section III shows the potential new rates when new volumes of water are provided, while at the same time the population is growing.

Note, the rise in per hectare water use. What this implies is the rising availability of water to conduct the necessary activities in the economy. (It does not imply that the water is applied per hectare).

The parameters used in this analysis are based on the nuclear desalting plant design proposed in the 1980s for southern California by General Atomics. The plant is a high-

TABLE 1
Nuclear desalting plants can double the water supply in the Jordan River Basin

I. Surface water, principal flows				
	Discharge (mcm/year)			
Hasbani	138			
Banias	121			
Dan	245			
Yarmuk	450			
Upper Jordan	650			
Lower Jordan	1,200			
	In 1950s:	1,200		
	In 1990s:	100		

II. All sources of fresh water are fully used (surface and underground combined)				
	Volume per year (mcm)	/ha (cm)	1990 (cm)	2020 (cm)
Jordan River Basin†	3,500	318	365	185
Israel, current use (includes 520 mcm from West Bank aquifers)	1,970	1,297	428	294
West Bank	175	313	180	76
Jordan	900	101	281	92

III. Nuclear desalted fresh water additions to Jordan River Basin				
Year	Number of MHTGR plants	Increment new water (mcm)	New total (mcm)	New total (m³/ha) (m³/cap†)
1997	1	146	3,646	331
1999	5	730	4,230	384
2000	10	1,460	4,960	450
2020	20	2,920	6,420	584
2035	35	5,110	8,610	782

* Million cubic meters.

† The Jordan River Basin covers 18,300,000 hectares in its overall watershed. Of that, 11,000,000 hectares are inside the boundaries of Israel and Jordan — which is the area used for consideration here. Israel, Jordan and the Israeli Occupied Territories together use about 60% of the Jordan Basin renewable waters (surface and underground).

‡ Population growth projected: 1997—11 million; 1999—13 million; 2000—14 million; 2020—21.2 million; 2035—30 million.

Sources: U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization; U.S. Department of Agriculture; "International Security," Vol. 18, No. 1 (Summer 1993), pp. 113-138.

On Oct. 6, in Cairo, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat met to reaffirm the spirit of the accords, and to set up committees to carry out various tasks. An economics committee was mandated, which subsequently has begun to meet on what to do. It is within the purview of this committee, and well within the

utilisation of joint water resources for implementation in and beyond the interim period.

The second point concerns electricity: "Cooperation in the field of electricity, including an Electricity Development Programme, which will also specify the mode of cooperation for the production, maintenance, purchase and sale of electricity resources."

Arafat: Israel trying to delay pullout

(Continued from page 1)

risk of civil war between Israeli civilians and the military.

The document, excerpts from which were published in the Haaretz daily, said the accord with the FLO could trigger "a deep crisis within

Israeli society and an escalation of law-breaking." The document, drawn up by a team of Israeli military officials and academics, said the "dramatic turnaround" caused by the autonomy deal could have "serious psychological consequences."

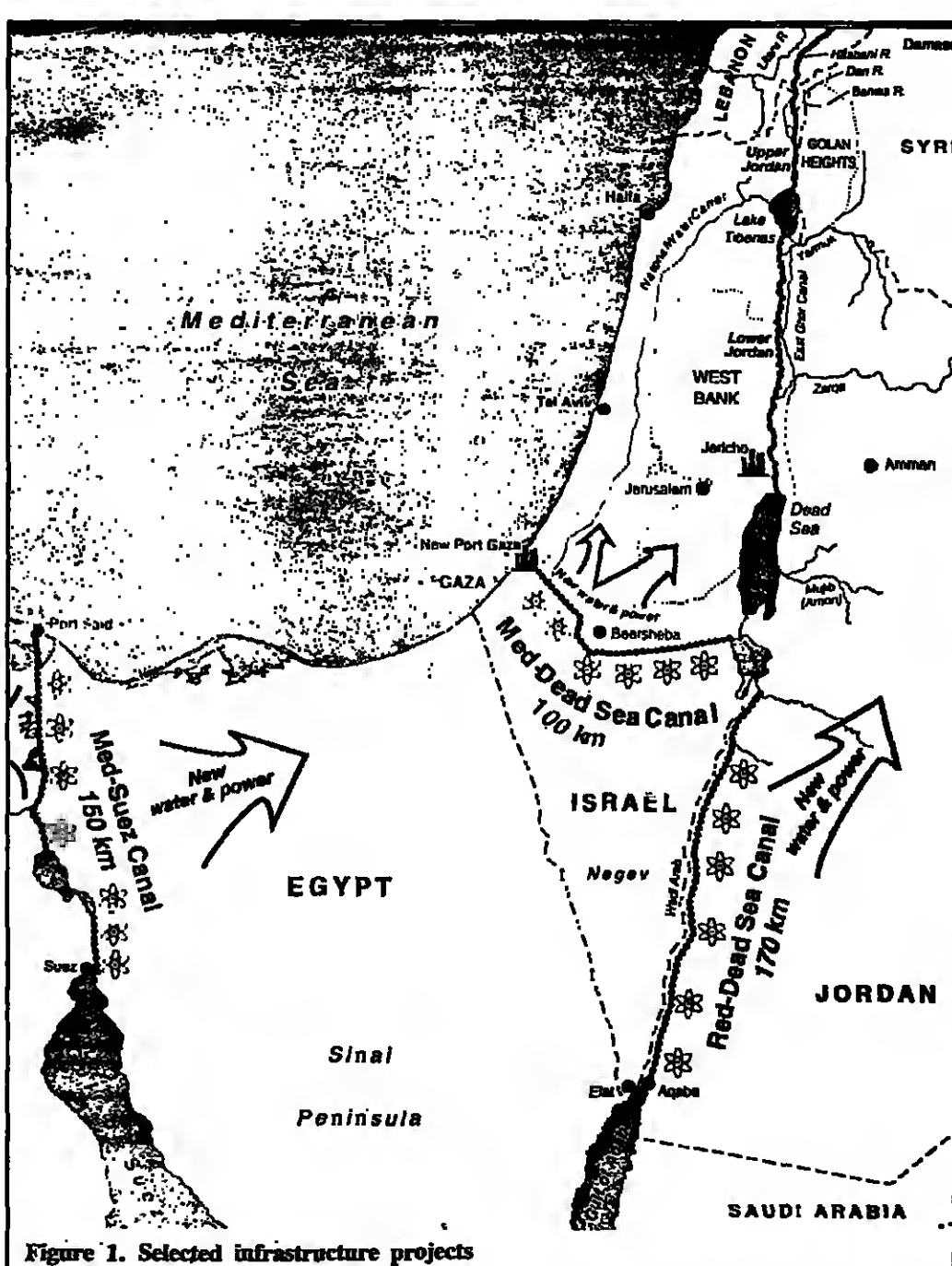


Figure 1. Selected infrastructure projects

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Buthelezi vows to fight 'every inch'

PRETORIA (R) — Black conservative leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi vowed Saturday to fight "every inch of the way" to block what he called the big lie of South Africa's new interim constitution.

The Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) leader, in an angry speech to about 7,000 supporters at a rally in Pretoria, also accused the rival African National Congress (ANC) of plotting to kill him.

Mr. Buthelezi, who has formed an anti-ANC "freedom alliance" with right-wing white separatists, said the grouping would become "radicalised" if its demands were ignored.

"The treachery of the ANC-South African Communist Party (SACP) alliance and the betrayal of the South African government have been pooled to produce the biggest lie that has ever been seen on the continent of Africa," Mr. Buthelezi said.

"(They) can still turn back today. If they do not hear my call for freedom and justice and democracy, I will fight them every inch of the way forward until I have diverted them from destroying South Africa."

The Freedom Alliance boycotted the multi-party talks where the interim constitution, providing for non-racial elections in April next year, was

drafted.

President F.W. de Klerk, ANC leader Nelson Mandela and other political and tribal leaders endorsed the agreement Thursday.

Mr. Buthelezi, who is also the chief minister of the KwaZulu black homeland, warned Mr. de Klerk and Mr. Mandela not to underestimate opposition to the interim constitution.

"Refusal to recognise this fact can only have one result — the radicalisation of the Freedom Alliance," he said.

Mr. Buthelezi accused the ANC-SACP alliance of targeting him for "total destruction."

"I am only alive today because my police uncovered these plots to kill me," he said.

Mr. Buthelezi and the leaders of two nominally independent homelands in the Freedom Alliance — Ciskei and Bophuthatswana — have said the interim constitution cannot be implemented in their territories without their approval.

Under the accords reached at the multi-party talks, the ANC will serve on a multi-party body which will control the defence force in the run-up to elections.

Police reported Saturday that another nine blacks had been killed, all of them in Katsheing township east of Johannesburg. More than

12,500 blacks have died in political violence since Mr. de Klerk began dismantling apartheid nearly four years ago.

Right-wing whites issues a new rejection of South Africa's interim constitution Friday.

The Freedom Alliance held talks with Mr. de Klerk in Pretoria but failed to win support for their demands that the interim constitution, approved Thursday, be changed.

Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer told reporters after the meeting that fundamental differences remained between the government and the alliance on the right wing's demand for strong regional government.

The anti-ANC alliance also includes the white separatist Conservative Party (CP).

CP leader Ferdi Hartzenberg told a Pretoria news conference that his supporters insisted a whites-only election be held to test support for the accord, based largely on agreements between the government and the ANC.

"It is clear that the president has no mandate to represent the majority of the people in South Africa by continuing to implement the draft constitution," Mr. Hartzenberg said.

"De Klerk is now morally and constitutionally obliged to call for a (white) general election in order to prevent any further escalation of violence."

If he does not comply, he will have to bear the full consequences."

Cor de Jager, president of the White Mineworkers' Union, issued a veiled threat at the news conference. "You know the mineworkers (are) usually associated with underground work and explosives and every mineworker is an expert in that area."

In Johannesburg, senior ANC official Matthews Phosa said force would be used if necessary to ensure that all black homelands complied with the terms of the constitutional accord. "If the only option left to us is to roll in the tanks, then that is what we will do," the South African Press Association quoted him as saying.

Despite the rhetoric, pragmatists within the ANC and the white right have agreed to form a joint working group to discuss Afrikaner demands for territory in which they can rule themselves.

One of them, Afrikaner separatist leader General Constand Viljoen, said after the talks with Mr. de Klerk that the alliance had not given up hope of a negotiated solution.

He said talks could continue even after the white-dominated parliament enacts the accord on an interim constitution.

Heavy snow shuts Sarajevo Airport

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — All relief aid to Sarajevo was cut off Saturday as heavy snowfalls and ice shut down Sarajevo Airport for the first time this winter, U.N. Protection Force spokesmen said.

"We will resume flights tomorrow morning (Sunday)," said U.N. spokesman Major Idesbald Van Biesebroeck here.

"They don't have the right products (to clear) the ice that formed overnight. This morning they only had 800 metres clear and that is not enough for a (Hercules) C-130," he added.

A British transporter had landed around 1:00 p.m. (1200 GMT) and had experienced enormous problems breaking, he said.

Major Van Biesebroeck denied the U.N. forces had been caught cold by the snow, saying that U.N. forces had "more than enough products, but it seems that they are not effective."

The anti-ice chemicals supplied to the U.N. could be of bad quality or simply too old, he said, adding the problem was currently being investigated.

Earlier, U.N. spokesman Lt. Col. Bill Aikman said it was "the first time it's (the airport) been shut down because of the weather."

Meanwhile, U.N. aid workers awaited orders Saturday to resume relief supplies to victims of Bosnia's civil war after Croatian and Bosnian leaders urged the use of force to protect convoys.

Promises of safe passage for the convoys across war zones were signed with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) by all three sides in the conflict Thursday.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic agreed Friday that force could be used to ensure the passage of the convoys if renegade local commanders tried to stop them.

Up to three million people will depend on international aid for their survival this winter in the former Yugoslav republic where the rival Serb, Muslim and Croat communities



A mental patient in Muslim-held Pazaric, 30 kilometres west of Sarajevo, collects firewood as U.N. troops arrived at the asylum where 389 patients are stranded without heat or food (AFP photo)

have been fighting for almost 20 months.

Col. Aikman said in Sarajevo that written orders had not been received from UNHCR headquarters to restart convoys to central Bosnia. They were halted last month when a Danish U.N. driver was killed.

"We could start up on 24 hours' notice. Everybody's ready to go," Col. Aikman told reporters.

The U.N. complained that forces of the Croat Defence Council (HVO) were still blocking the main aid routes around Gorzji Vakuf Friday although snow has reduced scale of fighting in the region.

"The routes are closed by HVO roadblocks," Col. Aikman said. "The only vehicles getting through are British engineering vehicles working on the road. The HVO have no problem with us maintaining the route."

He added: "The fighting in Gorzji Vakuf does not warrant (the continued closure)."

Unless lifted, the HVO roadblocks will prevent aid reaching Muslims who are fighting the Croats for territory in central Bosnia.

The U.N. said conditions were rapidly worsening for 55,000 civilians trapped by Croat besiegers in the Muslim quarter of Mostar in southern Bosnia.

A Croat artillery shell damaged the electricity generator at the Muslim hospital Friday and drinking water was scarce.

"The population in (east Mostar) is facing an even more dire situation as a result of the lack of potable water and medical care," Col. Aikman said.

International Mediator Lord Owen questioned Friday whether Bosnia's warring factions would adhere to an accord giving U.N. convoys safe passage through Bosnia this winter.

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating," Lord Owen told a news conference. "I'll believe it when I see it."

Yeltsin opponents secure election candidacies

MOSCOW (R) — Leading opponents of President Boris Yeltsin have won enough public support to run in Russia's first post-Soviet elections, but registration results released Saturday showed two breakaway regions cool about taking part.

News reports based on a provisional count of registrations said ballot papers for the poll on Dec. 12 would include names of leading nationalists from the previous legislature, which Mr. Yeltsin disbanded in September, and some former top Communists.

Electoral officials across Russia Saturday counted registrations from thousands of individuals running for seats for a new two-chamber legislature. Minimum numbers of

signatures of support for party lists were set down in the election rules.

The new Federal Assembly will replace the parliament which Mr. Yeltsin crushed with tanks on Oct. 4 after a hardline revolt.

The official deadline for registering candidates for the 176 seats of the upper chamber and half the 450 seats in the lower house was midnight (2100 GMT) Friday.

The Central Electoral Commission said by early Saturday 483 people had registered for the upper house, the Federation Council, and 1,397 for the lower house, the State Duma.

But the North Caucasus region of Chechnya, which has declared independence from Moscow, had boycotted the

process. In the independent-minded Republic of Tatarstan, voting would be postponed because of a lack of candidates, the commission said.

Details of who is standing and in what constituencies were not expected to be released before Monday.

Russian Television news Friday night that Sergei Baburin and Vladimir Isakov, two leading nationalist figures from the old parliament, had managed to register.

So too, it said, had former Soviet Parliament Chairman Anatoly Lukyanov, one of 12 former top Communists on trial in connection with a 1991 coup attempt against Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. ITAR-TASS News Agency

said Vasily Starodubtsev, one of Mr. Lukyanov's co-defendants, would stand for the upper house.

It quoted a Russian lawyer as saying an unprecedented legal situation would arise if Mr. Lukyanov and Mr. Starodubtsev were elected to parliament while the coup trial proceedings were in progress.

Deputies enjoy parliamentary immunity from the day of their election and cannot be detained, arrested or searched.

Nationalists and Communists may garner substantial support in Russia's first post-Soviet elections from those hardest hit by two years of radical free-market reforms — particularly state sector workers and pensioners.

NEWS IN BRIEF

China, U.K. to continue Hong Kong talks

BEIJING (R) — China and Britain pledged Saturday to push ahead with delicate talks on the political future of Hong Kong, hinting that compromise on even the "uncontroversial issues" in the bitter row still eluded negotiators. The next round of talks will take place in Beijing on Nov. 26-27, the Xinhua News Agency said. "We are still on the road. I am not quite sure what sort of road it is, but we're still on the road in the right direction," Assistant Undersecretary Christopher Hum of the British Foreign Office told reporters in Beijing at the conclusion of the two-day 16th round in Beijing Saturday. Mr. Hum said the next round of talks would herald "a faster rhythm of discussions from now. For the rest, we continue to hope that it will be possible to reach an agreement on some of the uncontroversial issues, and we hope that the Chinese side also share that view. I'm an optimistic person, and I continue to hope that it will be possible to reach agreement."

U.S. senator considers quitting

WASHINGTON (R) — Senator Bob Packwood of Oregon, accused of sexual misconduct, is considering whether to resign, his lawyer said. The lawyer, James Fitzpatrick, made the disclosure as Justice Department sources said Sen. Packwood was served with a subpoena — presumably aimed at the Senate Ethics Committee. "The senator has not resigned. The matter is currently under consideration. I don't know when any decision will be made," Mr. Fitzpatrick told reporters shortly after a Portland, Oregon, television station reported that Sen. Packwood, a Republican, had decided to resign. Mr. Fitzpatrick said Sen. Packwood was talking with others about the matter. Sen. Packwood himself, asked about rumours of his resignation as he hurried to a Senate vote, said, "wrong." Asked if he was going to resign, he said, "no."

11-year-old Britons face 20 years in jail

PRESTON, England (AFP) — Two 11-year-old boys accused of murdering a toddler will know this week whether they will spend the next 20 years in confinement. In a case that has galvanised a nation and drawn worldwide attention, the two children are charged with kidnapping and brutally murdering two-year-old James Bulger, the youngest defendants to be charged with murder in Britain in 30 years. Child A and Child B, as they are known in court, are accused of snatching James from a Liverpool-area shopping centre last February in a moment when his mother's back was turned. According to 13 days of testimony, they pushed, prodded and dragged the child two-and-a-half miles (four kilometres) in a lonely stretch of railroad track where they smashed his head in with bricks and bats and left him to be cut in two by a train. The trial has consisted entirely of the prosecution's case. The two lawyers representing the boys have called no witnesses, offered no evidence, the defendants will not take the witness stand. Their lawyers will present their closing arguments Monday. The judge will sum up Tuesday and give the case to the jury Wednesday.

Senate passes \$22b crime bill

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate Friday failed for a second time to pass a national five-day waiting period for handgun sales after approving a \$22 billion anti-crime bill that would ban 19 types of assault weapons. The crime bill, passed 95-4 Friday morning, includes funds to hire 100,000 local police officers and build 10 regional prisons and military-style boot camps for young criminals. But attempts in the afternoon and evening to end a Republican-led filibuster and pass the Brady Handgun Waiting Period Bill fell three short of the 60 needed under Senate rules. The first vote was 57-42 and the second was 57-41. Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Biden, a Delaware Democrat, said he did not expect any more attempts to pass the bill this year but Republican leader Bob Dole of Kansas said he still hoped a compromise could be worked out before Congress recesses in a few days until January.

N. Korea pressed on inspection

SEATTLE, Washington (AFP) — U.S. President Bill Clinton pressed North Korea to allow inspection of its nuclear facilities and resume dialogue with South Korea, but played down the prospect of U.N. sanctions. He told journalists after meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin that he wanted to avoid a situation in which the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would be unable to certify that Pyongyang was "not nuclear." Mr. Clinton and South Korea, China and Japan shared the same concerns but were reluctant to impose sanctions on the hardline Communist state, which is suspected of having the knowhow and materials to build a crude bomb. "They are worried about whether sanctions will backfire and we have discussed with them some other options, perhaps taking a more comprehensive approach to all the differences between us," said Mr. Clinton. He added that all three, whose leaders were attending a summit of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum, wanted to show North Korea it had nothing to fear from an "honest dialogue" with the South, or from allowing IAEA inspectors in.

Hosokawa to visit U.S. in February

SEATTLE (R) — President Bill Clinton said Friday that Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has accepted an invitation to visit the United States early next February. President Clinton made the announcement to reporters at the end of talks with Mr. Hosokawa during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum meeting in Seattle. U.S. officials said Mr. Hosokawa would make the visit on Feb. 11. Mr. Clinton had kind words for Mr. Hosokawa saying that he was impressed by the changes that the Japanese leader was making in his country. He also praised Japan's recent agreement to open up its construction market to foreign competition and saw it as an indication of progress to come in other areas.

Clinton nominee comes under fire

WASHINGTON (R) — Firing back at critics in what some are calling the last battle of the cold war, President Bill Clinton's choice for a key defence job denied charges Friday that he undermined U.S. foreign policy in the 1970s. "I resist any suggestion that I have done anything that compromises our national security or weakens our nation's defences," Martin Halperin told the Senate Armed Services Committee, which is considering his nomination to be assistant secretary of defence for democracy and peacekeeping. But panel Republicans accused Mr. Halperin of undermining the United States by denouncing U.S. military and intelligence policy during the cold war, and of defending a former CIA agent whose naming of agency station chiefs was blamed for the assassination of the Athens chief in 1975. "Many of this nominee's actions could have undermined America's ability to resist Soviet aggression," said the committee's senior Republican, Senator Strom Thurmond. The South Carolina senator also accused Mr. Halperin of supporting U.S. involvement in peacekeeping operations like the one in Somalia that risk American lives.

CIA 'smuggled' cocaine into U.S.

NEW YORK (R) — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) helped smuggle at least a tonne of cocaine worth \$20 million into the United States in an effort to infiltrate Colombian drug cartels, a former head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) says. In a report to be broadcast Sunday by the CBS programme 60 Minutes, former DEA head Judge Robert Bonner said the CIA operation, in conjunction with a Venezuelan National Guard, was illegal because his agency refused to approve it. Others quoted in the report said the operation in 1990 might have been designed to lead the agency to drug king Pablo Escobar and to find out how the cartels used Venezuela as a trans-shipment point for cocaine smuggled into the United States. They said the CIA cooperated with National Guard General Ramon Guillen Davila, who on the programme denied any wrongdoing and said he was being set up as a fall guy.

81 die in China doll factory blaze

SHENZHEN, China (R) — Eighty-one workers, mostly women migrants from China's impoverished interior, died when fire swept through a doll factory in the country's booming Guangdong province, officials said Saturday.

Survivors told how they crawled down staircases through choking smoke while fellow workers suffocated upstairs, unable to escape the three-storey plant due to locked doors and windows.

A municipal spokesman in the nearby city of Shenzhen said that the 81 workers died Friday at the Zhili Toy Factory, a Sino-Hong Kong joint venture in the town of Kuizhong, about 25 kilometres northeast of the British colony's border.

"Thick black smoke was all around me, it was like hell,"

said Deng Jiyin, a worker in her early 20s. "I crawled down the staircases floor after floor, holding my breath until I touched an exit door," she told Reuters at a local hospital.

Deng, like so many of the victims, came from a poor village in the overpopulated province of Sichuan.

China's economic boom, centred on the wealthy coastal regions, has hardly touched the lives of tens of millions of people in the less developed interior.

Cities such as Shenzhen, where rapid industrialisation in the past decade has created a local labour shortage, have acted as a magnet for migrants looking for a better life.

Television pictures showed burnt dolls and shoes strewn across blackened floors and stairwells. Firemen carried

bodies out of the plant on stretchers.

Deng's 30-year-old boyfriend, who was working on the second floor when the fire broke out, said some exits and windows were blocked by wire or railings. "I think those installations were aimed at guarding against thieves," said the boyfriend, who suffered minor burns. He asked not to be named.

Earlier, the spokesman said windows and doors had been locked to keep people inside the factory during working hours.

The official Shenzhen Special Zone Daily reported that the municipal fire department had sent a notice last March to the factory asking it to implement safety improvements, but they had never been carried out.

Kashmir shops open after end of siege

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Srinagar and the surrounding Kashmir Valley bustled with activity Saturday as shops reopened during a temporary suspension of a month-long strike that has crippled the region.

Shops and other establishments were back in business following the decision by the mainstream all party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference to permit a six-day break in the general strike launched on Oct. 16.

The strike began a day after the Indian army laid siege to Kashmir's holiest Muslim shrine where militants had taken refuge. The longest previous strike suspension was for two days.

The siege ended at dawn Tuesday when 65 civilians and armed Kashmiri militants emerged from the Hazratbal Shrine on the shores of Dal Lake and were taken into police custody.

Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao denied any deal had been done to end the standoff, but militant and official sources said some compromise had been reached which would probably ensure freedom for most of the militants.

Thirty-five civilians were released Thursday. The remaining 30, believed to be guerrillas

fighting against Indian rule in the Himalayan state, were still being held Saturday.

Of the 30 still detained 12 were likely to be let out on bail, officials said Saturday.

Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu and Kashmir state, was calm Saturday and people rushed to the shops to buy essential items. The shopping spree was not as frantic as it was during the earlier two-day suspension of the strike on Nov. 10 and 11, eyewitnesses said.

Meanwhile Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh has called for Indo-Pakistani talks in a congratulatory message to the new Pakistani foreign minister.

Sri Lanka steps up air war against rebels

COLOMBO (R) — Air Force bombers are stepping up attacks on Tamil guerrillas who overran a military outpost in northern Sri Lanka last week in the worst battle in a decade-long civil war, defence officials said Saturday.

"We want to keep up a continuous onslaught on the terrorists (rebels), weather permitting," a senior military official told Reuters.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said Saturday they had killed 1,000 soldiers and sailors and lost 411 of their own fighters in last week's battle.

Defence officials said 637 soldiers and sailors had been killed or were missing in the battle for the Pooneryn Base, on the edge of a lagoon separating the rebels' Jaffna peninsula stronghold and the mainland.

The Tigers said in a statement faxed to news agencies in Colombo that they had captured five navy boats, two battle tanks and infantry weapons during the Nov. 11 raid.

The army has launched an inquiry into the attack to find out what went wrong.

The defence officials said 227 soldiers and 14 sailors were known to have died, while 308 soldiers and 88 sailors were still missing. Over 500 soldiers and 47 sailors were wounded.

The Tigers lost between 400 and 600 fighters, they added.

The rebels have hanned travel to and from Jaffna, apparently to prevent information about their casualties leaking out.

The senior military officials said warplanes had launched repeated raids on the guerrillas since the battle for Pooneryn

to disrupt rebel preparations for more attacks.

"With the army confined to their bases in the north the best way to hit the enemy is by air," he said.

All military camps in the north have been placed on full alert for further rebel attacks as the Tigers prepare to celebrate the birthday of their leader, Velupillai Prabhakaran, on Nov. 26.

Last year on the same day, about 80 troops and rebels were killed in a clash.

French smash pimping network

PARIS (AFP) — Police named the French head of the Bangladesh Socialist Party, Shaidul Hassan, Friday as one of four alleged pimps from South East Asia caught exploiting young girls from Ecuador. The four were remanded on custody after being charged with procuring, including Mr. Hassan, 32, who has had political refugee status in France since July 1992.

Police said his apartment was used as a transit place for young Ecuadorian women coming to France, mostly illegally, via Holland, before they were forced into prostitution in the Senard Forest, east of Paris.

Burmese national Basar Than Win, 35, was sheltering several women in an apartment and taking them to the forest, while Nithyamathan Subramaniam, 25, from Sri Lanka acted as look-out. The fourth member of the network, Michel Givry, 49, helped to smuggle the girls into France from Holland, police said.

Some 20 prostitutes were found, three of whom have already been expelled. An inquiry led by the Central Office to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, also uncovered a centre for illegal immigrants, equipped to produce false passports and an organisation for arranging marriages.

Rapper charged in sexual attack

NEW YORK (AFP) — Tupac Shakur, a rap singer who starred in the film *Poetic Justice* with Janet Jackson, has been arrested for allegedly holding a woman down "in a sexual assault" in a Manhattan hotel.

The rapper, who also starred in the film *Boyz n the City*, was charged with the Oct. 31 attack on a woman in a Manhattan hotel. He was arrested with two other men at the Parker Meridian Hotel where a 20-year-old woman said she was sodomised, police spokeswoman Rosa Atamyliz said.

She alleged that she and Shakur were already in the bedroom together when three friends in the suite outside joined them. She was sodomised by an unidentified man who is still at large and Shakur, Ricardo Brown, 30, and Charles Fuller, 23, prevented her from fleeing during the attack. The three were in police custody Friday.

Shakur was released after a \$55,000 bond after being charged with aggravated assault in the Atlanta incident. The rapper, who also starred in the film *Boyz n the City*, was nominated in the lead actor category for the Image Awards to be presented in January by the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People.

Germans pucker up to beat kissing cousins

TUBINGEN, Germany (AFP) — East Germans pucker up more often than their kissing cousins in the west, according to the results of a survey released here Friday. The Wickert Institute discovered that east German couples kiss on average 9.74 times a day compared with their neighbours in the west of the reunified country who only embrace 8.56 times a day. And the survey also discovered that people are kissing less now than they used to 30 years ago in West Germany. In 1963 West Germans used to kiss 10.9 times a day, but the number fell to 10.3 in 1973 and since 1983 has never been higher than 9.34. Some 2,928 people over the age of 18 took part in the survey during the past 17 days undertaken by the institute on behalf of an American film company. And whereas 46 per cent of east Germans said kissing was an important part of their relationship, that figure fell to 34 per cent in the west. It would also seem young people cuddle up more often, with 51 per cent between the ages of 18 and 29 saying smooching was important compared with 30 per cent among the over 50s.

Labour of love for lonely heart

VANCOUVER, Canada (R) — Love's labour is not lost on a billboard overlooking a busy downtown street in the Pacific coastal city of Vancouver. Erika Love, 33, is paying around \$1,500 a month for a four-by-five metre advertisement which flashes every two minutes with the message "fine arts graduate seeks wealthy husband."

"Personally, I do love the six-foot-four (1.92 metre) musculature," Ms. Love told the Canadian Press news agency. "They're fantastically sexy, but I'm willing to forget that for somebody who is kind and generous."

The self-described "very sexy blonde" said she wanted somebody rich because she is fed up with being a poor student, but added that wealth is not the only sign of a good husband.

"I'm looking for love too," she said.

Newcomers surprise all-time greats in Jordan soccer championship

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Soccer's first division championship enters its fourth week Sunday when Al Ahli take on titleholders Al Faisali; Al Yarmouk play Al Arabi and Al Qadisiyah clash with Al Hussein. It seems that this year's long-awaited competition will provide fans with a element of excitement, as lowly teams, and especially the newcomers, have so far managed to surprise all-time greats. The latest example was Yarmouk's 2-0 win over former champions Al Wihdat, who seems somewhat insecure due to recent reshuffle of their coaching staff. With this important win Yarmouk have advanced their standing to 6th among this year's 12 competing teams. In another match, newcomers Fuhais gave it a good fight before losing 2-1 to Al Faisali. Subhi Suleiman scored Al Faisali's first goal from a penalty kick in the 35th minute, and although the titleholders never eased their attacks throughout the match, Fuhais thwarted all their scoring attempts and managed to equalise by Luay Kassab in the 72nd minute. Al Faisali's Suleiman and Jamal Abu Abed led their team's attacks and Firas Al Khalailah scored Al Faisali's winning goal in the 90th minute. Al Hussein managed a 1-0 win over Al Ahli whose striker Khalil Fataftah lost an early scoring chance in the first half when his shot hit the post. Al Hussein's 48th minute goal gave them the win and secured 3rd place in the standings. Sabab and Al Qadisiyah played the competition's first goalless draw in a match which was characterised as being slow and uninteresting while Al Arabi advanced their standing after a 2-0 win over newcomer Al Baqaa. Al Baqaa had opened scoring first in the 6th minute however Al Arabi soon equalised in the 20th minute and scored their winning goal by Ayman Al Omari in the 42nd minute. In this week's action Sabab will take on Al Wihdat, while Al Ramtha's matches are postponed as they are now in Saudi Arabia representing Jordan in the Arab Clubs' Cup.

Standings after 3rd week

Team	P	W	GD	D	L	GFGA	Pts
Faisali	2	2	-	-	-	6	1
Wihdat	3	2	-	-	-	5	2
Hussein	3	2	-	-	-	5	2
Qadisiyah	3	1	1	1	-	3	2
Arabi	3	1	-	1	3	6	1
Yarmouk	3	1	-	1	1	4	3
Ramtha	1	1	-	-	-	2	-
Sabab	3	-	1	1	1	2	3
Baqaa	3	1	-	-	2	2	5
Fuhais	3	1	-	-	2	2	6
Ahli	3	-	-	1	2	2	4
Jazirah	2	-	-	1	1	1	3

Cuba beats U.S. in volleyball

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — Unbeaten Olympic women's volleyball champion Cuba Saturday struggled through full sets before downing the United States 13-15, 15-6, 16-17, 15-10, 15-10 for its fourth victory in the \$1.5 million World Grand Champions Cup. Regla Bell Mackenzie scored 13 points for Cuba while America's leading point getter was Elaine Youngs with eight. The Olympic bronze medalist United States is 1-3 in the six-nation round-robin tournament at Osaka Castle Hall in western Japan which continues through Sunday. Eugenio George Lafita, Cuban head coach, said, "We know the level of the U.S. team but they played very well today. We haven't had enough practice as a national team but our condition is getting better. That was a good match for my players and me. Of course we would like to win the Sunday's final match." U.S. head coach Taras Lisevich said, "this was the best match we have had in this tournament. Our team played well, especially in blocking. My players concentrated on the match mentally." Russia, the Olympic silver medalist, also had to fought full sets before beating Peru 15-4, 11-15, 13-15, 16-14, 19-17. Russia is 2-2 and Peru 0-4. Led by Sun Yue's 13 points, Asian champion China outlasted host Japan 16-14, 15-17, 15-8, 15-3 for its third victory against one defeat. Japan is 2-2.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
AND TARIK HUSSEIN
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CAST THE FIRST STONE

Both vulnerable. South deals. NORTH ♠ 7 6 4 ♣ 9 8 4 ♦ 10 7 5 ♣ K J 3 2 WEST ♠ 8 5 3 2 ♣ 10 ♣ A 6 7 8 5 ♦ Q J 8 4 ♣ K 9 6 3 2 EAST ♠ A 8 6 4 ♣ 9 7 SOUTH ♠ A K Q J 9 ♣ K J 10 2 ♦ A ♣ Q 10 5 The bidding: South West North East 1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass 3 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass Pass Opening lead: Three of ♣. Follow the bidding and play of this hand. Then decide who, if anyone, made an error. Once North could respond, South, with 20 points in high cards, insisted on game by making a jump shift. Four spades was a perfectly normal contract. West led the singleton heart. East grabbed the ace and returned the suit. West ruffing, drew trumps and forced out the ace of clubs. Making four spades on the nose. It might seem that nothing untoward happened. Not so. A grievous error was committed and at the very first trick. West's poor choice of opening lead presented declarer with the contract. It is dangerous, especially on opening lead, to attack with a singleton in declarer's second suit. That could easily kill a trick in partner's hand. Even if it does not, more often than not it will cost a tempo. It is doubly wrong when you have length in the opponents' trump suit. A four-card holding always suggests a forcing game could be more profitable. Look what would have happened had West led the queen of diamonds. Declarer can win and draw trumps in four rounds, then go after hearts. When the defenders win the ace of hearts, they can force declarer's last trump with a diamond. As long as the defenders are careful to win the first club, declarer will be held to nine tricks.

Chinese women end with more weightlifting gold

MELBOURNE (R) — Li Yajuan won the women's super-heavyweight crown — her fourth straight world title — to maintain China's dominance at the World Weightlifting Championships Saturday.

Her success took China's gold medal tally at this championship to 19 — and most experts believe they would have won even more of the 27 golds on offer but for a few injury and weight control problems.

Chinese women have now won an incredible total of 156 gold medals out of a possible 171 during the seven women's weightlifting championships.

And their domination of women's weightlifting is unlikely to be seriously challenged for the foreseeable future with five of their six world champions here still in their teens.

Li, a relative veteran of 22, won her title by a massive 27.5 kg, the widest margin in the tournament so far, which further underlined the gap between Chinese female lifters and the rest of the world.

Li said she could have lifted more, but had trouble digesting the meal she ate an hour before the contest, the last event in the women's competition.

"I had some noodles before the contest, which gave me some problems with my stomach," Li said after her victory.

Li set seven world records in the new weight class, her best

lifts were 105.0 kg in the snatch, 155.0 kg in the jerk to give a combined total of 260.0 kg.

Li, who weighs in at 125.07 kg, was lighter than American Carla Garret, the heaviest woman in the competition at 126.76 kg but Li said her victory was due to a strict training regime which saw her lose five kg in the past month.

Garret picked up a silver in the jerk with her lift of 132.5 kg, a bronze in the snatch for a 100.0 kg lift, to give her an overall silver with a combined lift of 232.5 kg.

Lyubov Gougorko of the Ukraine took the bronze with a 100 kg snatch, and a 115 kg jerk for a combined lift of 200 kg.

Shuwen Xing, favourite to win the superheavyweight crown had to pull out with an injured shoulder after making the best lift of the snatch event with 107.5 kg, which gave her a gold medal.

The sport's governing body, the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), changed the weight classes at the start of the year in an attempt to clean up the sport, as many of the old world records were seen to be achieved by drugs.

Sunday is the last day of the 10-day tournament with just one contest — the battle of the giants in the men's super-heavyweight division.

Timur Taimazov won the heavyweight class at the World Weightlifting Championships Saturday amid scenes of confu-



China's Li Yajuan clean and jerk lifts 155 kilograms, a new world record, at the World Weightlifting Championships in Melbourne, Australia, Saturday (AFP photo)

sion, rage and anger.

Taimazov, who weighs in at a mighty 106.45 kg, went into a rage backstage after believing that he had been denied the chance of the gold medal after judges red-flagged his final attempt at the jerk.

His outburst was captured live on closed-circuit television monitors and astonished mem-

bers of the audience and the media watching in amazement in the auditorium.

The burly Ukrainian had to be restrained by team mates in the warm-up area behind the stage, when he threatened to go back out into the competition arena to remonstrate with the officials.

In the end Taimazov had no

reason to lose his temper as his nearest challenger — compatriot Igor Razorenov — miscalculated the weight he needed to lift to win the title, failed to lift the unnecessary heavier weight he added to his barbell and ended up with the bronze medal.

Afterwards Razorenov summed up the extraordinary finale to the competition explaining: "There was a lot of tension during the contest which made me confused and caused me to add up the weights wrongly."

Fifteen months ago Taimazov was disappointed when he lost out on an Olympic gold medal in Barcelona and was determined not to let another title slip from his grasp. But that is exactly what he almost allowed to happen Saturday.

"It happened in Barcelona and I didn't want it to happen here in Melbourne. I have been training for a long time for the World Championships. I did not come here to lose."

Taimazov said after he calmed down.

Taimazov won the first part of the competition, the snatch, with his best lift of 195.0 kg, setting up a 10-kg margin over Razorenov and Australian Stefan Botev who both lifted 185.0 kg.

But lifting first in the jerk, Taimazov was soon in trouble, failing his first attempt.

After the first two rounds in the jerk, Taimazov had cleared 225 kg, Botev, 232.5 kg and

Razorenov 230 kg which still left Taimazov in the overall gold medal position.

On his final lift Taimazov pushed his weight up to 230 kg, hoisted the barbell above his head and locked his arms perfectly.

But just as he was awarded a clean lift by all three judges, his giant frame began to shake and tremble under the weight and he moved forwards, across the stage.

The bar then came crashing down outside the official lifting platform onto the stage, and the judges immediately reversed their earlier decision and red-flagged him.

Backstage, Taimazov lost his temper and began raging uncontrollably.

Razorenov then came out needing only to lift 235 kg to equal Taimazov's combined snatch and jerk total lift of 420 kg to win the gold due to his lighter bodyweight.

It was then he made his error — loading 237.5 kg onto his barbell and failing with the lift.

His best legal effort of 230 kg was the one that counted and that was only good enough for the overall bronze as Botev took the silver.

Botev's 232.5 kg lift in the jerk was the best of the trio and gave the host country its first gold medal in a World Championship. The Bulgarian-born lifter, who emigrated to Australia in 1990, took the silver with a combined total of 417.5 kg while Razorenov's total was 415 kg.

Huber, Sanchez Vicario reach Slims semis

NEW YORK (AP) — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, nearly on the verge of elimination, rallied Friday night to defeat Jana Novotna and grab a spot in the semifinals of the Virginia Slims Championships.

Getting stronger and more determined the longer they played, the second-seeded Spaniard topped Novotna 6-7 (2-7), 7-6 (7-2), 6-4 in a match that took 2 hours, 57 minutes at Madison Square Garden.

Sanchez Vicario will play Mary Pierce in the second semifinals. The unseeded Pierce reached the semifinals in her first trip to this season-ending tournament by upsetting four-time Martina Navratilova on Thursday night.

The first semifinal has topped-seeded Steffi Graf against No. 8 Anke Huber. In Friday's first match, Huber made it an all-German semifinal by defeating fourth-seeded Conchita Martinez 6-3, 6-3.

It was a rare victory over Novotna for Sanchez Vicario, who has lost eight of 12 career meetings. But this one was sweeter, considering from how far back she had to come.

Although Novotna, one of the best all-court players on the women's tour, and Sanchez Vicario battled evenly through the first two sets, that parity was only on the scoreboard. Novotna appeared to be in control while Sanchez Vicario struggled.

Appearances were deceiving.

There were four service breaks in the first set and two more in the second. Each time one broke serve, the other broke right back.

Novotna controlled the first-set tiebreak, but it was Sanchez Vicario who was starting to control the match.

Novotna had to fight through five deuces to hold serve in the fifth game of the middle set. She was taken to deuce again in her next service game, but still managed to hold.

The first four points in the second-set tiebreak went against serve. That was when the Spanish right-hander took control.

She won the next five points to capture the tiebreak, then took the lead in the third set for good by breaking Novotna in the seventh game, the final point a forehand cross-court passing shot that ticked off Novotna's racket.

Huber and Martinez engaged in long baseline engagements, sending powerful groundstrokes to the outer edges of the court. If the points were long, the games were longer as the two evenly matched competitors kept battling to deuce.

Martinez had the bigger serve, a stroke that would have worked perfectly to set up a serve-and-volley game. Instead, the Spaniard retreated to her regular spot behind the baseline and worked her way into the point. Huber retaliated by slamming her grunt-assisted strokes deep into the corners, keeping Huber on the run.

The match was halted briefly in the second set when Martinez asked for and received medical attention when her back muscles tightened up.

Sampras beats Medvedev to reach ATP final; Stich downs Ivanisevic

FRANKFURT (AP) — Pete Sampras overwhelmed Andrei Medvedev 6-3, 6-0 Saturday to reach the final of the ATP Tour World Championship, serving out the match with his 1,000th ace of the season.

In the final Sunday, Sampras will meet Michael Stich, who edged Goran Ivanisevic 7-6, 7-6.

The Sampras-Medvedev semifinal lasted only 51 minutes.

Sampras was in devastating form. In his eight service games, Sampras dropped only seven points, and four were double-faults. In the second set, he lost three points — all on double-faults.

"I was in a bit of a zone there for just about the whole match," Sampras said. "The ball was wherever I would put my racket. Just one of those days that I won't forget."

Medvedev, playing the tournament event for the first time, dropped his serve in the second game and it was all downhill from there on for the 19-year-old rookie from Ukraine.

"He played incredibly," Medvedev said.

"I'd like to see the statistics of the match. I think he made about 80 per cent of his first serves," he said.

In fact, Sampras won 88 per cent of his first-serve points.

Stich, who will jump one place to No. 2 in the world if he wins the tournament, came into his Saturday match against Ivanisevic with a 33-19 tiebreak record this year.

His play in the tiebreak proved crucial. He won the first 7-2, but needed six match points before prevailing 12-10 in the second against a fellow big server.

It was the second year in a row that Ivanisevic lost to a German in the semifinals of the world championship. Last year, he was beaten by Boris Becker, the eventual winner who failed to qualify this year.

In his match, Sampras hit serves at speeds reaching 207 kph (124 mph) and produced shots rarely seen in the game.

On game point in the fifth game, Sampras was caught on the wrong foot by a Medvedev shot that skimmed the net cord. He casually reached behind his back with the racket, and in an unorthodox version of a forehand half-volley, gently placed the ball across the net, just beyond Medvedev's reach.

"I knew it was my day when I hit the behind-the-back shot off the frame for a winner," Sampras said. "I thought it was going to be a good day at the office."

Most of the brief match, however, Sampras did not need such acrobatic skills. He simply rolled past Medvedev, hitting winners from all over the court.

Sampras served four aces in the first game, the first one coming at 196 kph (117 mph).

He finished off the match with two aces, for a match total of nine.

"Arm nice and loose, ready to go. Pumped up. Big match, I just wanted to let him know that I could hit it pretty hard," Sampras said, describing his frame of mind at the start of the match.

Medvedev, the youngest player in the tournament, was unimpressed.

"He is simply the best," Medvedev said.

"His serve may be his best weapon, but he is strong all-around. I think he has the all-around game that allows him to be No. 1, a clean No. 1."

Sampras is assured of finishing the year as No. 1 in the world, even if he does not win the \$2.75 million tournament which pits the eight top-ranked players. He won the event in 1991, and looks set to repeat.

The 22-year-old American has won eight titles this year, including Wimbledon and the U.S. Open, and his singles record for the season is 83-14, the best since Ivan Lendl went 84-7 in 1985.

If he wins the tournament, Sampras will pick up \$1.24 million. His 1993 prize money to date of \$2,593,075 already is the most won by a player in a year.

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TENDER INVITATION

Natural Resources Authority (NRA), announces tender invitation No. 271/93 for logging services related to hydrocarbon exploration and production wells in Jordan. The services include well logging, formation evaluation, production technique ... etc. Contractors who have experience in the same field, are qualified financially and technically and wish to participate in the above tender are invited to submit their prequalification documents not later than 12:00 p.m., on Dec. 15, 1993.

Eligible contractors may obtain tender documents from NRA head offices at Balader Wadi Seer, Procur. Division, against non-refundable JD30,000 per set. Bidder should submit his offer in two separate sealed envelopes, technical and financial. The technical one should include a copy of his bid bond. Bid bond \$5000.00 in the form of bank guarantee or certified cheque should be enclosed, otherwise your offer will be rejected.

Natural Resources Authority

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CONCORD '2'
in
The Prince of Tides
Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:30, 8:15, 10:15

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Tareq Aziz leaves for New York

AMMAN (AFP) — Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz left Saturday for New York, on a mission to plead for the lifting of the U.N. oil embargo against Iraq, an Iraqi diplomat said here. Jordanian officials said Mr. Aziz, who arrived in Amman Friday, did not hold talks with Jordanian leaders. Iraq is seeking an end to the sanctions imposed after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. The U.N. Security Council extended the embargo on Thursday.

Kuwaiti paper interviews Israeli president

KUWAIT (AP) — In an unprecedented interview with a Gulf Arab newspaper, Israeli President Ezer Weizman invited Syrian leader Hafez Al Assad to visit the Jewish state. "We wish we could see President Assad in Israel soon in pursuit of peace," Mr. Weizman said in the interview published Saturday. The pro-government daily Al Siyassah said it had sent an Egyptian reporter to Israel to interview Mr. Weizman. It became the first Gulf publication to boldly violate the Arab boycott of Israel rules. Oil-rich Kuwait, once a fierce exponent of anti-Israel Arab policies, has said it would no longer blacklist foreign firms that deal with Israel, but would continue to abide by other boycott rules. Mr. Weizman told Al Siyassah that he hoped all Arab leaders would follow in the footsteps of Anwar Sadat, the late Egyptian president whose visit to occupied Jerusalem in November 1977 culminated in a peace treaty 16 months later.

39 killed in Kurdistan clash

ANKARA (AFP) — Nine Turkish troops, 25 Kurdish separatists and a pro-government militiaman have died since Wednesday in clashes between Turkish security forces and rebels in eastern Turkey, police said Saturday. Eighteen rebels, nine Turkish troops and one militiaman were killed late Friday when rebels attacked the Pirinçeken police post near Cukura on the Iraqi border, security forces in the eastern city of Diyarbakir said. Rebels infiltrated Turkey from northern Iraq, they added. Eleven other Kurdish rebels including a woman have been shot and killed since Wednesday in military operations in the Sirnak region bordering on Syria and Iraq, the police statement said.

Iran appoints governor for disputed island

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Saturday it has appointed a governor for Abu Musa, a small Gulf island at the centre of a sovereignty row with the United Arab Emirates. The Iranian news agency IRNA said Interior Minister Ali Mohammad Besharati appointed Hassan Rezai as governor of the island. It did not identify Mr. Rezai further or say when he would take up his post. Iran last week said it had earmarked 2.1 billion rials (\$1.13 million) for eight industrial, farming and fishing projects on the island.

UAE soldier drowns off Mogadishu coast

MOGADISHU (R) — A soldier serving with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) 670-strong contingent in Somalia drowned near Mogadishu port Saturday, a United States military spokesman said. "A UAE soldier drowned earlier this morning when he went swimming in the area of the new port," said U.S. Colonel Steven Rausch. Col. Rausch said United Nations helicopters searched for the unidentified soldier's body but could not find it in the turbulent Indian Ocean waters.

Bhutto unwilling to give up nuclear plans

KARACHI (AP) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto said Saturday that Pakistan would not give up its nuclear weapons programme despite pressure from Washington. She also said the nuclear arms race with India can only be settled through regional negotiations on nuclear non-proliferation, which India has rejected. "We have offered talks with India and we are prepared to talk with India, but it should be a regional solution," Ms. Bhutto said at a news conference in her hometown of Karachi, Pakistan's largest city and the industrial heart of the country. "Rolling back the nuclear programme is not feasible. It will not serve the purpose of nuclear non-proliferation in the region," said Ms. Bhutto.

Egypt police want armed civilians

ASSIUT (R) — Police want armed civilians to help them battle militants bent on toppling the Egyptian government, security sources said Saturday. The proposal for a civilian security force came from Major-General Magdi Basyouni, chief of police in Assiut province, about 325 kilometres south of Cairo and scene of increasing violence between militants and police. Mr. Basyouni was trying to enlist support from civic leaders, the sources said. Some leaders in Assiut feared creation of such militias would fuel the conflict. The police chief urged Abdul Mohsen, secretary-general of the Assiut branch of the ruling National Democratic Party (NDP), in a letter last month to approve the formation of an armed group of party members to strengthen the police presence. In his letter, a copy of which was made available to Reuters, Mr. Basyouni complained of "the complete passivity of citizens" in confronting the militants.

Israel: Talks will decide fate of artefacts

TEL AVIV (R) — The fate of all ancient artefacts uncovered in the occupied West Bank since 1967 will be decided by peace negotiators, the head of Israel's antiquities authority said in remarks broadcast on Saturday. Israeli archaeologists have accused the authority of launching a massive last-minute hunt for West Bank antiquities, charging it is trying to keep artefacts out of Arab hands before Israel begins a pullout next month under a peace deal. Authority director Amir Droni said all findings made since Israel seized the West Bank in 1967 would be "a subject for decisions by politicians, not professionals or scientists in the field." Mr. Droni said the fate of the artefacts will be decided in accordance with talks to determine the borders of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank city of Jericho.

French police break up Kurdish rally

PARIS (R) — Several people were hurt when club-wielding police broke up a crowd of some 200 Kurds holding a noisy but peaceful demonstration outside Paris' law courts on Saturday to demand the release of comrades arrested by French police. The demonstration followed a sit-in at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris on Friday, also to protest against the roundup this week of supporters of the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) fighting for independence from Turkey. Eyewitnesses said participants in the unauthorised Saturday demonstration chanted "Long live the PKK," "Turkey assassins" and "Free our comrades" before police intervened. State radio said 113 people were detained but most were expected to be released after identity checks.

Ciller reelected True Path leader

ANKARA (AFP) — Prime Minister Tansu Ciller won a standing ovation on Saturday at a congress of Turkey's ruling True Path Party which later reelected her as its leader. Ms. Ciller became party leader in June at a special party congress, replacing Sileyman Demirel who was elected Turkish president in May. She was the first woman in the republic's history to become prime minister, in a move welcomed by the international community which sees her as a symbol of democracy in a Muslim state. Ms. Ciller, 47, was unopposed at Saturday's election of the party leadership by the 1,215 delegates present who got to their feet to cheer her as she entered the sports hall where the congress was taking place. Some members of the public in the hall shouted slogans against the Marxist Kurdish Labour Party.

King pays tribute to Muta University

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein said Saturday that the youth represent the Kingdom's hopes for the future and they form the pillar of the nation and the shield of the homeland.

Addressing a delegation representing excellent students of Muta University, the King said Muta "stands out as a historic symbol for sacrifice and martyrdom."

"Present day Muta represents a unique symbol for modern Jordan, thanks to its university and its remarkable efforts to contribute to the country's progress and prosperity," the King said.

Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, the

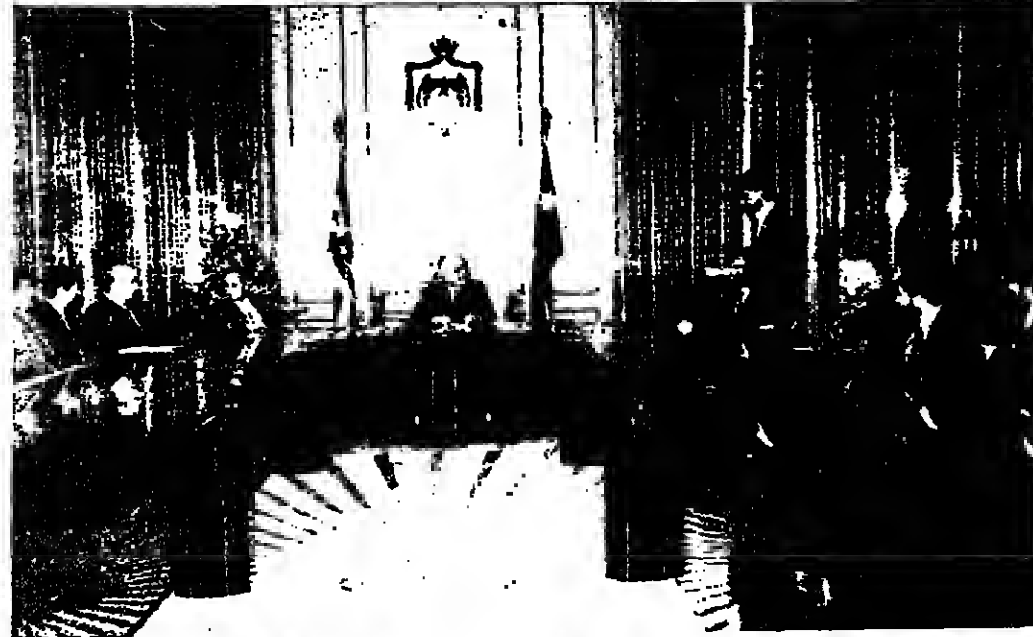
King's advisors Yanal Hikmat and Khaled Karaki attended the meeting.

King meets publishers

King Hussein received at the Royal Court Saturday Bassam Freiha, chairman of the board of directors of the Al Sayyad Publishing House of Lebanon, and Raouf Shahrouri, chief editor of the Al Sayyad magazine.

He conferred on the Al Sayyad Publishing House the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order in recognition of its efforts and services in the media.

The audience was attended by Sharif Zeid.



His Majesty King Hussein Saturday meets with a group of excellent students from Muta University (Petra photo)

Palestinian police to regroup in Jordan before deployment

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is regrouping soldiers of the Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) in Jordan to move them into the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as soon as Israel gives the green signal, PLO officials said.

"They said up to 9,000 A PLA soldiers trained as policemen in Jordan and Egypt would be ready to assume duties before the end of the year, but their actual deployment depended upon arrangements to be worked out in the ongoing Israel-PLO negotiations in Egypt."

Under the Sept. 13 Israel-PLO accord, Israel is expected to begin a partial withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho on Dec. 13 subject to a final agreement on the modalities of transfer of authority to the Palestinians.

"Initially, the police force will move into Gaza and Jericho and then to the rest of the West Bank as the autonomy arrangements take hold," said a senior PLO official. He said the number of the initial unit was also to be decided in the Israel-PLO negotiations, but that it could be "several thousand."

Israel has agreed to accept one policeman for every 100 Palestinians in the occupied territories. It would mean around 8,500 policemen only for Gaza and Jericho, based on a population figure of 800,000 in the Gaza Strip and 15,000 in Jericho.

The official said that PLO was arranging to transfer PLA units stationed in Iraq to move into Jordan for police training along with PLA soldiers in Jordan. He expected only half of the 3,000-strong PLA brigade in Iraq to come to Jordan.

"Many of the PLA men in

Iraq are already married to Iraqi women and settled in Iraq," said the official. "It is unlikely that many of them could opt to move away."

However, he said, the PLO was giving the soldiers the option to stay on in Iraq.

The commander of the force, whom the official identified as Haj Ismail, and many of his close aides would be coming to Jordan.

"Jordan will be the regrouping point for all PLA forces on the eastern side of the Suez while Egypt will host those from the western side pending their full deployment in the occupied territories," the PLO official said.

Under such a plan, the PLA units in Syria and Iraq will regroup with their counterparts in the Kingdom, while those in Sudan, Yemen, Tunisia, Libya, Sudan and Algeria would be brought to Egypt.

A senior PLA officer, Captain Mahmud Abdul Fatah, said Saturday 30 members of the police force completed a course in humanitarian law last week and another batch was rested to take a similar course beginning Sunday.

The course, organised by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), will familiarise the policemen, who have already undergone regular courses in police and crime investigation techniques at Jordanian facilities, in respect for human and civil rights while conducting arrests and interrogation.

Capt. Fatah told the Associated Press. "The idea of the training course is to ensure that the policemen respect the people's rights and ensure that the proposed police force will not serve as a tool of oppression," he was quoted as saying.

In response to concerns expressed by international organisations such as the ICRC, Amnesty International

Iraqi women, children protest Kuwaiti trench

KUWAIT (Agencies) — In the second incursion this week, more than 500 Iraqis crossed into Kuwait to protest work on a defensive trench the emirate is digging along the disputed border, United Nations observers said.

Abdul Latif Kahhaj, a spokesman for the U.N. Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), said one of the Kuwaiti contractors digging the trench fired a shot in the air after the crowd started throwing stones at them.

"The Iraqis pulled back and the Kuwaitis then withdrew to avoid any further confrontation," said Mr. Kahhaj. A U.N. officer monitoring the demonstration was slightly injured by a stone.

Mr. Kahhaj said the crowd of mainly women and children gathered in the Iraqi town of Umm Qasr and marched through an airstrip used by the mission. They carried Iraqi flags and pictures of President Saddam Hussein.

The crowd was accompanied by journalists and reporters, he said.

He said the demonstration started at 10:50 a.m. local time and ended at 12:30 a.m.

More than 250 protesters crossed the border Tuesday and planted the Iraqi flag in a farmland area given to Kuwait by the new demarcation of the disputed desert border.

The line, drawn by a U.N. commission a year ago, also put 11 oil wells and an abandoned naval base that used to be in Iraq on the Kuwaiti side.

Iraq has not recognised the border. Shooting incidents along the 210-kilometre line have escalated since work on

the trench reached the farm area in Abdali where scores of Iraqi farmers still live.

"UNIKOM considers this disturbance as an incursion committed by the Iraqis on the Kuwaiti side of the demilitarised zone," a UNIKOM statement said of Saturday's incident.

It was the largest Iraqi incursion across the desert border since salvage crews hundreds-strong in January entered to recover equipment left behind after the 1991 Gulf war.

The incident occurred near a sensitive area of the northern sector of the border where Iraqi farmers are being required to leave a number of farms defined as being inside Kuwait under the U.N. demarcation completed earlier this year.

The farms, part of an oilfield and part of Umm Qasr ended up on the Kuwaiti side of the frontier. Kuwait says it is prepared to compensate the farmers.

The U.N. says the demarcation defined for the first time the frontier agreed between the two countries in 1963. In places it runs northeast of an informal border used over the years.

The trench, three metres deep and five metres wide, and an accompanying four-metre high wall, has been built almost all the way along the border.

The one sector still to be dug is the Al Abdali area, near Umm Qasr, where the Iraqis are due to leave the farms.

Kuwait says it wants to build the ditch to keep out Iraqi infiltrations.

Algeria moving to army rule — lawyer

PARIS (AFP) — A lawyer speaking for Algeria's outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) warned that the country was heading towards a full army takeover as security forces Saturday pursued their anti-FIS raids in Algiers.

"The setting up of a national dialogue commission was a hope," Abdul Nour Ali Yahia said in an interview published in the French daily Quotidien de Paris. "Dialogue was accepted. But this initiative has become obsolete over the past week and we are headed towards a takeover of power by the army."

Mr. Ali Yahia, who is also president of the Algerian Human Rights League, declared that the FIS "has the same configuration. Some want dialogue and others do not."

Referring to the Nov. 9 round-up of 88 suspected Islamic fundamentalists in France, three of whom were subsequently indicted, Mr. Ali Yahia said that it was basically a political operation as "they found nothing essential."

He said French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, who ordered the crackdown, "has got things completely wrong."

On the situation in Algeria, Mr. Ali Yahia said: "There were currently 17,000 people detained in southern camps who live in deplorable conditions."

In addition to 600 in 'Ain Meguel and 394 in Oued Namous.

Senators defy new Nigerian strongman

LAGOS (AP) — In one of the first signs of open opposition to the new military ruler, Nigeria's elected senators on Saturday swore not to surrender their seats in the nation's newly outlawed federal legislature.

All 67 members of the senate, the upper chamber of the national assembly, issued a statement saying they would not step down, although they did not say how they would resist the new government.

General Sani Abacha, a veteran of two coups in the past 10 years, ousted the civilian government of Ernest Shonekan on Wednesday and then dissolved the federal legislature, the 30 state governments and all local councils.

He banned all political activity and said he and a ruling junta were in charge. Like the string of military dictators before him, he promised to institute a new democratic system but did not say when.

The statement from the senate was a rare show of unity for an elected chamber that had been sharply divided during Nigeria's protracted political crisis.

"The military must know that they are not armed to treat Nigerians and Nigeria like a conquered people and an occupied territory," the senators said.

Their statement came after they were ejected from their government-paid hotel rooms in Abuja, the central administrative capital.

"We note with deep sorrow, the damage that successive military administrations have inflicted on all facets of our national life," the senators said.

"Every military administration justifies its takeover with

claims to have the ability to clean up the society, but end up being more corrupt than the preceding one."

Gen. Abacha is among the most wealthy of all Nigeria's rulers, military and civilian, all of whom are accused of enriching themselves from this West African nation's huge oil industry.

Nigeria was plunged into chaos when Gen. Ibrahim Babangida, who spent eight years promising democracy, voided the results of the June 12 presidential election that was to return the nation to elected civilian government.

Gen. Babangida resigned under pressure, some of it coming from a power struggle with Gen. Abacha, and named the mild-mannered Shonekan to succeed him.

Gen. Abacha said he was ousting Mr. Shonekan and dismantling democratic institutions to better grapple with Nigeria's worsening economic woes and widespread civil unrest.

Nigeria has been gripped by a nationwide general strike to protest huge fuel price increases imposed by Mr. Shonekan two weeks ago.

Nigeria has been ruled by a succession of military dictators. Some people hoped that the replacement of the unpopular Shonekan, derided as a puppet of the military, would lead to the appointment of the apparent winner of the June ballot, Moshod K.O. Abiola.

"We are unable to see how the military's unrepentant takeover of the sovereignty of the Nigerian people can restore democracy and national confidence," said Olaya Agbokoba, president of the civil liberties organisation in Lagos.

Lawyer asserts sheikh's trial only a political show

CAIRO (AP) — A second trial of a blind Egyptian cleric jailed in the United States and 46 other alleged Muslim extremists resumed Saturday on charges related to an illegal demonstration four years ago.

Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, facing U.S. charges in the Feb. 26 bombing of New York's World Trade Centre that killed six people, was not the only absentee defendant; seven others are on the run apparently in Egypt.

What is more, all 47 — those eight plus 39 in defendants' cages Saturday — already have been acquitted, along with an original defendant who died in custody and another who was hanged after conviction in another case.

"The case is so weak there is no evidence to support the charges," Montasser Ali Zayat, sheikh Abdul Rahman's lawyer, said. "That's why the defendants weren't guilty in the first trial."

Under an emergency law applied in Egypt since Muslim extremists assassinated President Anwar Sadat in October 1981, state security court verdicts must be certified by President Hosni Mubarak. In the Abdul Rahman case, the president did not act, and retrial of the same charges was ordered.

Mr. Zayat contended the motive was to demonstrate a strong hand against confrontation between the government and religious militants.

More than 225 people have been killed since early 1992 in terror attacks or clashes between security forces and extremists out to overthrow the government and establish an Islamic state, Sheikh Abdul Rahman's followers in Egypt are held responsible for most attacks, including attempts to assassinate government ministers, police officers and army generals.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman, 55, was tried and acquitted twice in connection with Sadat killing and a coup attempt that fol-

lowed. He and the others, mostly members of his Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, are being retried on charges they organised and participated in a demonstration in 1989 at his hometown of Fayoum, 80 kilometres south of Cairo.

They are accused of using violence leading to the injury of two policemen, a commissioned officer and an enlisted man, and of illegally possessing weapons and planning to use them against police.

Both policemen were injured by stones thrown by demonstrators. The government contends some in the crowd had firearms, but a policeman testified Saturday he could not identify anybody who had one.

The retrial began last spring in Fayoum but was postponed because the Sheikh and others had not been informed. It developed that one who was not dead.

Then it moved to Cairo, where most of the suspects are jailed, because Judge Ahmad Ezzat Al Ashmawy said Fayoum's courtroom was too small for so many defendants.

Hearings began in the capital April 7, and Mr. Ashmawy allowed the defendants to leave on recognisance after every session. Four months later, the judge threw them back in jail.

On Saturday, defendant Sayed Ali Abdul Aziz, 40, broke into tears as his lawyer appealed for his release. Mr. Abdul Aziz said he was selling lemons in the market when the demonstration broke out.

"I took my daughter and tried to run away," he said from the cage. "But they arrested me, and since then I have been involved in something I have nothing to do with."

As he spoke, he displayed a paralysed hand as evidence he could not have been in the demonstration because he could not have thrown rocks.

Kennedys to sell Palm Beach estate

PALM BEACH, Fla. (R) — The Kennedy family is selling the Palm Beach estate that in the family's proudest moments served as the winter White House, and in less happy times was the backdrop for a sordid rape case. Bryan Dunn, spokesman for the New York-based Joseph P. Kennedy Enterprises Inc., said that Sotheby's International Realty had been given an exclusive listing to market the Terra Cotta-roofed oceanfront property which has been in the family for six decades. The family is not seeking other Palm Beach property, Mr. Dunn said. Ned Monell of Sotheby's Palm Beach office said the family is asking \$75 million for the 6-bedroom, 5½ bath oceanfront house with a swimming pool and tennis court. Joseph and Rose Kennedy bought the property for \$120,000 in 1933 from Thomas Wanamaker. It later became the winter White House for their son, President John F. Kennedy, who selected his cabinet while staying at the house in the transition period before his inauguration. In 1991 a woman from nearby Jupiter accused William Kennedy Smith, the late president's nephew, of raping her on the beach in front of the property. He was acquitted of all charges in a widely publicised December 1991 trial.

Depressed Dane wants Norwegian nationality

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — Depressed at the failure of his national side to reach the World Cup finals, a Danish football supporter has made a request for temporary Norwegian nationality. The Norwegian embassy in Copenhagen said the fan had written to them declaring his willingness to back the Norwegian team during the finals next summer. "Unfortunately it is very difficult for us to satisfy his demand to be a temporary Norwegian," a spokesman said. Danish supporters have been in a state of shock since Wednesday when ten-man Spain pulled off a miraculous 1-0 win to deny the Danes a place in the finals.

California prison installs deadly electric fence

CALIPATRIA, California (AFP) — A California prison has installed a deadly electric fence which will kill any inmate attempting to escape over it. Prisoner rights advocates have expressed outrage over the \$1.5 million fence erected on Nov. 8, calling it an automatic death sentence, but officials argue it is a more efficient than the shoot-to-stop practice.

"The fence doesn't get distracted, it doesn't look away for a moment and doesn't get tired," said Prison Warden K.W. Prunty. "We already have a lethal perimeter, this is simply a way to keep that same level of security while saving money," he added. The four-metre (13-foot) high fence carries 4,000 volts — about nine times the amount needed to kill someone. It is banked on either side by fences with razor wire to ensure that it is not touched accidentally.

Woman too weak to get out of tub stuck 6 days

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Firefighters summoned by a worried friend broke down the door of a 70-year-old woman's house and found her in her bathroom, where she was stuck for six days. Ruth Clark sat down in the tub on Nov. 11 but was too weak to get out. Through it all, she had all the water she could drink and the company of her cat Lindy. "It's one of those old tubs with very flat bottom. After I took my bath, I couldn't get out no matter what I tried," she said.

Ms. Clark was rescued Wednesday night. She said Friday at Orlando Regional Medical Centre, where she was being treated for a lesion on her thigh. She spent more than 150 hours in the tub before a friend asked police to check on her and firefighters were summoned. "It was never so glad to see anyone," Ms. Clark said Friday. She let the bath water out when she realised she would be in the tub for a while. When she was thirsty, she squeezed the cloth to drip water into her hand and drank it.

Ms. Clark said she never worried about being rescued because her neighbours and others watch out for each other.